

THE INDEPENDENT

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Safari Britons taken hostage

FIVE BRITONS were last night believed to be among 13 Western tourists taken hostage by armed rebels while on a mountain gorilla safari in Uganda.

Three people – including a tourist – were killed after 150 rebels, believed to be Rwandan Hutus, stormed three remote campsites on Sunday night, in an apparently co-ordinated attack in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest National Park. None of the three was British. It is believed up to 30 Westerners were initially taken hostage but that 17 of them, including the French deputy ambassador to Kampala, Anne Peltier, escaped.

By Andrew Buncombe and Kim Sengupta

Last August four tourists were seized by Hutus, who later released one of them. The other three, including a Briton, have not been heard of since. The incident was one in a recent spate of high-profile kidnappings involving Britons in places as diverse as Chechnya, Yemen and Nigeria.

Last night, the British High Commissioner in Uganda, Michael Cook, said he still had few details about the raids. "We have been told there was an attack on the camp. A number of people were abducted – 13, some of whom we believe are British nationals," he said. "We are working closely with Ugandan authorities to find out more."

A spokesman for the American embassy in Kampala, Virgil Borden, said: "We know there are some US citizens but we do not know how many."

A source close to the Uganda Wildlife Authority said that ethnic Hutu rebels from neighbouring Rwanda attacked two camps on the edge of the park. He said a game warden who was with the tourists was missing and feared dead.

The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, which lies close to the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is home to about 300 mountain gorillas and is one of only two areas where they can still be found.

Last August, six tourists who had crossed from Uganda into Congo in the midst of that country's civil war in order to track the gorillas were also attacked and kidnapped by Rwandan Hutu rebels.

Three of that group, who were in another gorilla habitat near the Virunga volcanoes, are still missing, although Ugandan wildlife authorities said last month that they believed they were still alive.

The attacks took place at the campsites, in the south-west of Uganda, which are run by at least two different operators.

Mike Jones, managing director of tour operators Abercrombie and Kent, which owns one of the sites, said: "We had 11 clients of various nationalities staying at the Gorilla Forest camp. There were other Westerners staying at other camps. We think that up to 150 rebels stormed the camps. At our camp, a Kenyan guide and two of his clients were taken. Our other eight clients have

now been moved to Kampala."

An employee of the African Pearl Safari tour company, which owns another site, said the gunmen, camouflaged and carrying automatic rifles, attacked its camp and set it ablaze, forcing staff and guests to flee into the dense brush.

"The information we have is that seven have escaped from captivity, and we may get more as time goes by," said the employee, who would not reveal his name. "Our people in the camp are scared."

Unconfirmed reports said the three killed included at least one tourist. It is thought

the other two were Ugandans and that one may have been an employee of the state-owned Uganda Wildlife Authority.

The attacks come against the backdrop of continuing ethnic violence in central Africa. The hostage-takers were almost certainly Hutus – the remnants of those responsible for the genocide of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis in 1994.

After the current Rwandan government took power, many rebel militiamen fled into the Congo, where they were hunted down by an alliance of Rwandan Tutsis, Ugandans and Congolese rebels.

Since then, they have been based in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. There has been continued fighting between the Hutus and the Uganda People's Defence Force along the forested border, with the rebels regularly crossing the border to ambush vehicles and take hostages.

The Foreign Office said last night that it could only confirm that "a number" of Britons had been kidnapped. It is believed the other Westerners are Americans and French. Last night, no demands had been made by the kidnappers.

Safari danger, page 3



Vian Sharif, the Cambridge cox, with her team-mates for the Boat Race against Oxford on 3 April. Ms Sharif, 19, is 5ft 11in and weighs 7st 6lb. Her smallest oarsman is 5ft 3in. Cambridge have won for the past six years and are favourites to make it seven. Full report, Sport, page 25

Ministers lukewarm on free care for elderly

By Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

The Tories and the Liberal Democrats accused the Government of dithering last night. The Royal Commission was seen as a way of relieving the pain, but its report has left the Government with a problem over how to proceed.

The Treasury and Downing Street favour more means-testing, and a note of dissent added by two members of the commission to the majority report said: "To make personal care free for all those who are assessed as need it would make matters worse. In essence, it would transfer initially at least £1.1bn rising to at least £6bn in 2001 from the private to the public purse. This huge addition to the burden on public expenditure would not, however, increase spending on services for elderly people by a single penny."

The minority report called for people to be encouraged to take out private insurance schemes to contribute to long-term care, the solution offered by the Tories. Labour MPs said Mr Dobson would be "lynched" if he proposed private insurance. They expect the Government to adopt a combination of measures, including lifting the means-testing threshold on assets and possibly a contributory insurance scheme.

The Labour MP Malcolm Wicks, an expert on social policy, said: "It is a big problem and I urge the Government to come up with a big solution."

End to 'injustice' page 6

'Looted Nazi art' in National Gallery

THE NATIONAL Gallery is to study the histories of more than 100 of its paintings amid fears that they could have been looted by the Nazis. The suspect works include paintings by Picasso, Renoir, Redon, Degas, Van Dyck and Caravaggio.

The National Gallery will be the first gallery or museum in the world to go through its collection to root out paintings with Nazi links. However its director, Neil MacGregor, said yesterday that even if any of the

paintings were found to have been looted by the Nazis, they could not be returned to their rightful owners. He said: "In law we can't transfer title. So we can't give a painting back to an individual but the individual might want compensation."

The decision to investigate any painting whose provenance is unclear is the first step by British galleries to determine

whether any works might have been looted from Jewish families. Other galleries, including the Tate, the British Museum and leading regional galleries are drawing up plans to sift through their collections.

Mr MacGregor said yesterday he thought it unlikely that many, if any, of the paintings would turn out to have been in Nazi hands. But after the "Nazi Gold" revelations of money looted from Jewish families, it was felt necessary to remove

any doubt. He added: "Of the 2,400 paintings in the National Gallery, 470 have been acquired since 1933 and there are 120 where we can't be certain about their provenance."

"We are doing this so anyone who might have a claim can see what is in the National Gallery. But we should keep a sense of proportion; my hunch is that only very few works will turn out to be open to dispute."

On the 120-strong list are such works as *Woman Drying*

Herself by Degas; *Ophelia Among the Flowers* by Redon and Picasso's *Fruit, Dish, Bottle and Violin*.

The change in attitude to the Nazi period over the past couple of years is illustrated by the example of Bosch's *Flowers in a Vase*, acquired by the National Gallery five years ago.

Its annual report from the time merely said that the picture had been bought in Switzerland "shortly after the Second World War".



Redon's 'Ophelia Among the Flowers': Loot fears

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Racism: Home Secretary launches inquiry into Lawrence leaks and tells chief constables to end prejudice, or else

Straw warns police over race reforms

CHIEF CONSTABLES who fail to introduce race relations reforms will risk having their forces run by government inspectors, the Home Secretary warned yesterday.

The threat by Jack Straw followed the publication of a critical report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, which found many police chiefs were refusing to make race a priority. The study, of all 43 forces in England and Wales, found 16 - nearly 40 per cent - did not have a community and race relations strategy in place and criticised many chief officers for failing to take a lead.

Mr Straw said that ultimately he could use the "power of intervention", which would involve sending in hit squads of inspectors to run part, or all, of any force that refused to make any improvements.

"I hope it will not come to that, but it does tend to concentrate the mind," he added. Ministers are becoming increasingly frustrated that a significant number of chief constables appear to be paying lip service to reforms in race relations, rather than bringing about meaningful change.

Mr Straw said he was "disappointed" at the report's finding that many police chiefs had failed to respond to calls for an urgent rethink on race relations issued in an HMIC report *Winning the Race* published in 1997. Yesterday's study examined 15 forces to discover what progress was being made.

Inspectors said the failure to introduce reform "signifies... that community and race relations issues remain peripheral... for many forces."

As revealed in *The Independent* on Saturday, the HMIC report also praises the Metropolitan Police - which last week was condemned for "pernicious

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent



Newing: 'A great deal of work yet to be done'

clones and institutionalised racism in Sir William Macpherson's report on the Lawrence case - for its strong leadership on race. Also praised were South Wales, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, and the Triality Road division in Bristol. Inspectors found a minority

of officers were still using racist language and behaviour towards colleagues and that senior officers were often failing to treat complaints by black and Asian officers seriously. They found "in isolated incidents, [managers] turning the complaint against them."

"It stretches credibility to accept that the use of such language or behaviour does not surface in their dealings with the public," said the report.

It said that retaining ethnic minority officers was a "cause for concern" and criticised the fact that more than a quarter of the forces did not monitor whether ethnic minority staff had left the service.

Promotion of ethnic minority officers was identified as a continuing problem, with no black or Asian graduates being chosen for a national acceleration scheme for junior ranks in the past three years.

The inspector found that officers who express racist, sexist or homophobic behaviour are currently not given negative marks during promotion exams. The police examination board has promised to change this practice.

A third study will be carried out to monitor police performance on the race issue.

John Newing, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constable of Derbyshire, said: "We are pleased to see that HMIC has recognised the good work going on... there is, however, a great deal of work yet to be done to ensure that this success is repeated around the country."

Norman Bettison, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, announced yesterday that he had written to all his force's 6,600 staff and launched a task force to carry out a "root and branch" policy review of race relations.



Jack Straw in Tewkesbury yesterday where he warned police chiefs to eliminate racism Peter MacDiarmid

Independent inquiry into leaking of Lawrence report

JACK STRAW appointed an independent investigator yesterday to carry out an inquiry into the leaking of the Stephen Lawrence report.

The Home Secretary said the leak was "a serious matter" that he "thoroughly deplored". He promised the investigation would be completed as quickly as possible.

The leak - and subsequent injunction obtained by Mr Straw - caused anger ahead of the publication of the report. Police officials claimed it had been leaked to damage Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Downing Street has already expressed doubt that any culprit

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

will be identified for the leak but the inquiry is being used by the Conservatives to continue to put pressure on Mr Straw over his handling of the Lawrence report. "We want this cleared up quickly, and we are determined to keep Jack Straw on the run," said a Conservative insider.

Last night, Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative home affairs spokesman, tabled five Commons questions. They covered the terms of reference for the inquiry, whether it will question ministers, whether staff and officials who had access to the report will be interviewed,

whether the investigator will have the power to question those with access to the report outside the government, and what discussions occurred between ministers before the injunction to stop publication.

Sir Norman said the leak was part of a litany of blunders surrounding the report that he blamed on Mr Straw, culminating in the Home Secretary's decision to leave his junior minister Paul Boateng to answer questions from MPs on Friday while he went to the south of France for a weekend break. Sir Norman said it was the Conservatives who called for a statement on Friday and they were still demanding to

know who was responsible for the original leak.

Ministers will be questioned about whether they were responsible for leaking the 333-page report. But Mr Boateng has told friends that officials can prove he was not responsible.

Copies of the report were kept under lock and key at the Home Office before it was published. Mr Boateng was logged in and out by a Home Office civil servant as having read the report on Thursday, 18 February, but the report of the leak said that it was read the day before.

Leading article, Review, page 3
David Aaronovitch, Review, page 3

Menson 'chased by men in car'

BY JASON BENNETTO

UP TO four racists are believed to have chased a black musician before setting light to him. Scotland Yard murder squad detectives believe.

The development in the two-year-old investigation into the murder of Michael Menson follows new witness statements that three or four men in a car were involved in the attack.

Mr Menson, 30, a former musician and the son of a Ghanaian diplomat, was attacked by a racist gang who poured lighter fluid on him before setting him alight in north London.

Police are thought to be close to making a series of arrests in the case, which was not classified as a racist attack until a year after it took place.

Mr Menson died 16 days after the attack. At first police treated the death as suicide and believed he had set fire to himself, partly because he had suffered from mental problems.

The police were severely criticised for failing to take a statement from him despite him saying he had been the victim of a racist attack.

New witnesses have told officers from the Metropolitan Police's new race crime unit that they saw three to four people "contact" Mr Menson in Kendall Parade, Edmonton, close to the place - Silver Street - where he is believed to have been assaulted in January 1997. The men may have spoken or shouted abuse at Mr Menson.

Police believe the gang may have followed, or chased, their victim into the nearby street before attacking him. Yesterday they appealed to anyone who may have seen Mr Menson either late in the evening of 27 January 1997 or in the early hours of the following day, and a small, dark car, possibly a Austin Metro, in the same area to come forward.

In September last year a jury at an inquest returned an "unlawful killing" verdict. After the inquest the case was reopened.

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Welfare of elderly: Royal Commission calls for end to 'injustice' of forcing better-off pensioners to sell their homes

'Scandal' of paying for care in old age

THE INJUSTICE faced by old people who find themselves impoverished at the end of their lives by having to pay thousands of pounds for their care while others pay nothing is a scandal that must be ended, the Royal Commission on Long Term Care said yesterday.

While patients with cancer get free NHS care in hospital, others with Alzheimer's disease, looked after in nursing homes, have to pay an average of £337 a week. This inequity must be removed by making all personal and nursing care free, whether provided in hospital or elsewhere, the commission says.

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

The 12-member commission, established in December 1997 by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, in fulfilment of a manifesto commitment, says the question of how the costs of care in old age are to be met cannot be ducked. Sir Stewart Sutherland, the chairman, said: "We have found the current system to be confusing and complex, creating real fear among those approaching old age. This is a scandal and it must be changed."

However, the cost of its pro-

posal, estimated at £1.1bn immediately, rising to more than £5bn by the middle of the next century, has been privately described by ministers as "unaffordable".

The Prime Minister's policy unit and the Treasury believe it would mean raising too much money in taxation to pay for care of the better off. But ministers have hinted that they may be prepared to raise the threshold for savings, currently £16,000, above which old people have to pay for their care. Lifting the threshold to £50,000, an alternative measure recommended by the commission if

the Government balks at making nursing care free, would cost £175m.

Mr Dobson said he would look carefully at the commission's proposals but made no commitments. He told MPs: "This is a complex issue and there are no easy solutions. We have to get this right."

The commission was split over the issue of free nursing care with two members producing a "dissenting" note. David Lipsey, public policy editor of *The Economist*, and Joel Joffe, chairman of Oxfam, argued that it would involve the transfer of huge resources to

the property-owning middle-classes that ought to be concentrated on the most needy.

Mr Lipsey said yesterday: "The majority's proposals would mean higher tax bills and not a single penny of that would go on better care for elderly people. It would all be swallowed up in a new subsidy to better-off people and their heirs."

Sir Stewart countered that the commission's proposals would add only 0.3 per cent to the 2.3 per cent spent from taxation on long-term care. This would rise to 0.4 per cent in the long term. "Our proposals will end unfairness," he said.

A central question raised by the commission's 200-page report is whether it is the duty of the state to protect the inheritance of the elderly as well as caring for them, given that children are no longer inclined to look after their parents in old age. The majority on the commission argued it was unjust that people who had saved all their lives should have their savings taken from them in their last months or years because of increasing disability and illness, while those who saved nothing got their care free.

The agony aunt Claire Rayner, a member of the commis-

sion, said: "There is enormous anger among those over 70 who have paid all their lives for what they regard as National Insurance and who find when it comes to the crunch that the state is not there to pay for their care. It cannot be fair and no government in its right mind is going to alienate so large a proportion of the population and their children."

The minority argued that requiring the state to protect people's inheritance imposed an impossible burden and that there was an urgent need to provide more help to enable people to remain in their own homes.

One in three women and one in five men over 65 will need residential care at some time in their lives, the report says. A married couple would need to save £88,000 to meet the cost of a residential home for each of them for three years.

There are 480,000 old people cared for in homes, 157,000 of them in nursing homes, of whom 42,500 are paying for themselves. An estimated 40,000 people a year have to sell their homes to pay for their care.

Total spending on the care of the elderly currently £11.1bn, is estimated to rise to between £28bn and £75bn by 2051.

'My money will all be taken. It's heart-breaking'

ELLEN WHITE always thought she would be able to leave her home to her children when she died. Instead, she now faces having to sell the bungalow where she lived for more than 20 years to pay the costs of staying in a care home.

Last year, Mrs White, a widow, broke her hip. She spent time in hospital and it was then decided her own home was no longer suitable. Both the kitchen and the bathroom were too small to get into with the walking frame she now requires. She was transferred to a convalescent home and from there to the Montrose care home in Watford, Hertfordshire, on 4 December. Her husband is now to be sold.

"I feel pretty awful about it, very distressed when I think about it. It's heart-breaking," she said. She had already made a will leaving the property to benefit her son, Michael, and daughter, Avril, her six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

"Of course, now I've got to make a new will. Will there be anything left to leave? They go on taking the money for my keep until the money is used up. I don't think there will be any-

By LOUISE JURY

thing left." She considers the current system a "dreadful sin". Those people who have not looked after their money, who smoked and drank and everything else, the Government will keep them. But those people who haven't smoked or drunk, who've saved up with our children in mind, then you're penalised in the end."

She had watched this happen to other people in the past. "I thought I'd never let them do that to me," she said. "But you get caught."

STAN SHEINWALD has lost everything of the life he once enjoyed as he faces the consequences of his wife having developed multiple sclerosis.

He spent seven years looking after Mary, giving up his own business as an insurance broker to do so.

After a spell in hospital last year, the social workers suggested that Mrs Sheinwald, now 54, should go into care. "They said, 'It's about time you let go. Your health is suffering,' I said fine," Mr Sheinwald, 61, said. But in his bewilderment at the time, he failed to appreciate what this would mean for both of them. Without his wife's social security payments, his own income was left at just £61 a week, making it impossible for him to pay the mortgage on their four-bedroom home. He



Ellen White at the care home she moved to after breaking her hip. She considers the current system a 'dreadful sin' David Rose

sold the house and most of the profit went to clear debts incurred during the time he had not worked. He bought a small two-bedroom flat to be able to live near his wife in her residential home in Harrow, north-

west London. But now the social security department has made a claim on his flat, saying half belonged to Mrs Sheinwald and should be used to pay her care fees. "I could be homeless," Mr Sheinwald said yes-

terday. "I've lost my business, my house that I worked very hard for and my wife. I've paid a very high price."

"If someone gives up their life to look after someone and just manage to survive, they

shouldn't be abandoned. "The Royal Commission estimates it would cost £1bn a year to pay for this kind of care. Carers save the Government £34m a year. Where is that money going?"

NEW IDEAS FOR OLD

Main recommendations of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care are as follows:

The costs of long-term care to be split between the "hotel" element and personal care. Personal care to be available free after assessment according to need and hotel costs to be means tested.

A National Care Commission should be established to monitor trends and oversee standards in old people's homes.

The value of an elderly person's home to be disregarded under the means test for up to three months after admission to residential care.

Consideration to be given as to whether every new resident may be able to return home. More care to be given to people in their own homes and more services to be offered to carers.

National Health Service and social services budgets to be pooled together with budgets for housing aids and adaptations.

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Clean up and cut prices, water companies told

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST programme of water quality improvements was announced by the Government yesterday. The £8bn package will at last mean the end of the outdated Victorian sewerage system.

A vast schedule of engineering and renovating works will aim to end the depositing of sewage on beaches and riverbanks, clean up bathing water to the highest standards achievable, make further improvements in drinking water and river quality and protect sensitive environmental sites.

"This new programme will banish the last vestiges of the Victorian sewerage systems into the history books," said Geoff Mance, the Environment Agency's director of water management. "It will at last set

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

environmental standards fit for the 21st century."

The water companies of England and Wales will be expected to fund it between 2000 and 2005 - at the same time cutting water bills by an average of 10 per cent, and keeping prices stable thereafter.

The "double whammy" on the companies was spelt out yesterday by the Environment minister Michael Meacher. "We're very concerned that prices have rocketed over the last 10 years since water privatisation, with an increase in real terms of about 35 per cent," he said. "It is time to give back to the consumer."

The combination of clean-up

and price cut is what the Government expects from the 29 companies during their next five-year business period, for which price levels will be set later this year by the water regulator, Ian Byatt. The Government is in effect telling Mr Byatt it thinks the companies can afford to do both.

The companies begged to differ yesterday. Pamela Taylor, chief executive of their trade association, Water UK, said the double pressure might lead to cuts in investment programmes and delays in improvement work. But she stressed: "We want to carry out these environmental improvements. Cleaner water not only helps wildlife, it makes the water industry's life easier, too."

Of greatest significance is

the commitment to bring in sewage treatment for all but the smallest discharges. Every coastal discharge for a community of 2,000 people or more must be treated. Unsatisfactory sewer overflows, which enable solids to escape during storms, will be improved in an accelerated programme that will see more than 6,000 - more than 80 per cent - fixed by 2005.

The Government hopes that, by the end of 2005, 97 per cent of British beaches will comply with basic EU bathing water standards - as high as could be realistically achieved. Mr Meacher said - and 55 per cent will meet the higher "guideline" standards. It hopes to bring the proportion of rivers meeting the water quality objectives set for them from 82 to 90 per cent.

IN BRIEF

Doctor denies five murder charges

A FAMILY doctor accused of murdering 15 women patients pleaded not guilty yesterday to five of the charges at Manchester Crown Court. Dr Harold Shipman, 53, from Hyde, Greater Manchester, has already pleaded not guilty to four other charges of murdering patients. His trial is expected to begin on October 4 and to last between two and three months. The court has not been set.

Pupil spikes teacher's cup of tea

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl has been suspended after spiking a science teacher's drink with a toxic chemical. The pupil put copper sulphate in Susan Ashcroft's cup of tea as she began a class at Irlam and Cadishead Community High School in Greater Manchester.

Dog eats drugs evidence

A STRAY dog ate cannabis plants police were keeping for evidence. An officer put the dog in a kennel at Bath police station, not knowing the drugs unit had stored the plants there. The mongrel, who was discovered behaving in a peculiar manner, was unharmed by his unusual meal.

Sweet tin bomb on window sill

ARMY EXPLOSIVES experts defused a pipe bomb left by loyalist paramilitaries yesterday at the home of a Catholic family near Coalisland, Co Tyrone. They carried out a controlled explosion on the device, which was inside a sweet tin left on the window sill of the house.

Snail stops £12.5m golf course

A SNAIL could force plans for a £12.5m golf course to be abandoned. The very rare Vertigo Augustus, 2mm long, has been found on the site in Co Clare, Ireland.

Disgraced financier jailed for dole fraud

THE FORMER financier Peter Clowes was jailed yesterday for four months after he was convicted of making false claims for jobseeker's allowance.

Clowes, 56, sentenced to 10 years after the collapse of the investment company Barlow Clowes in 1992, had denied claiming £1,800 in benefits when he was working over a four-month period from December 1996. The jury at Mold Crown Court in north Wales took three hours to find Clowes, a computer programmer from Stockport, Greater Manches-

ter, guilty on all three counts.

Judge John Rogers QC said the offence was aggravated by the fact that Clowes had been out of prison for just 10 months when he made the false claims. The fraud was "sophisticated" and "deliberate", he said. If there had not been a change in the law, Clowes could have been ordered to serve some of the remainder of his previous sentence.

Nigel Fieldhouse, for the defence, asked the judge to consider a sentence that would not "crush" his client.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 2 March 1999

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And the Bafta nominations are...



Best actress contenders: Gwyneth Paltrow, Cate Blanchett, Emily Watson and (below, with fellow nominee Michael Caine) Jane Horrocks

MICHAEL CAINE, who was ignored in the Oscar nominations this year, could still pick up a best actor award from his British peers.

The nominations for the Baftas, announced yesterday, include Caine for his role as a sleazy agent in the film *Little Voice*, a role for which he has already received a Golden Globe. Otherwise, the British Academy's choices are remarkably in line with the Oscar nominees, with period dramas *Shakespeare in Love* and *Elizabeth* dominating the list.

The Titanic actress Kate Winslet unveiled the shortlist for the 51st British Academy Film Awards at the Bafta building in Piccadilly, London. *Elizabeth* and *Shakespeare in Love* are in the running for best direction and best actress and Geoffrey Rush earned nominations as supporting actor for both films.

Shakespeare in Love

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

picked up another supporting actor nomination for Tom Wilkinson, a best actor nomination for Joseph Fiennes and a supporting actress nomination for Dame Judi Dench - who is also in the running for an Oscar.

Brenda Blethyn, another Oscar hopeful, is also up for a supporting actress title for *Little Voice*, while Jane Horrocks is nominated for best actress for the same film - a nomination she failed to receive in the Oscars. She is against three other Oscar nominees - Emily Watson, for *Hilary and Jackie*, Gwyneth Paltrow for *Shakespeare in Love*, and Cate Blanchett for *Elizabeth*.

Saving Private Ryan and *The Truman Show* are the other shortlisted films in the "best film" category. There was no nomination for Sir Ian McKellen, who had been short-



listed for an Oscar for his role in the film *Gods and Monsters*. However, his co-star Lynn Redgrave was nominated best supporting actress for the same film.

Kate Winslet paid tribute to the state of the British screen industry. "This year it really does feel like it's been a great year for British film," she said.

This year's event is to be held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, on 11 April and will be hosted by Jonathan Ross, the new presenter of BBC1's *Film '99*. He said yesterday he regarded the Baftas as the "thinking person's Oscars".

The shortlist for the main categories at the 51st British

Academy Film Awards (Bafta) are as follows:

- Best Film - *Elizabeth*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Truman Show*.
- Best Performance by an actress in a leading role - Cate Blanchett (*Elizabeth*), Jane Horrocks (*Little Voice*), Gwyneth Paltrow (*Shakespeare in Love*), Emily Watson (*Hilary and Jackie*).
- Best Performance by an actor in a leading role - Robert Redford (*Up at the Sun*), Michael Caine (*Little Voice*), Joseph Fiennes (*Shakespeare in Love*), Tom Hanks (*Saving Private Ryan*).
- Best Performance by an actress in a supporting role - Kathy Bates (*Primary Colors*), Brenda Blethyn (*Little Voice*), Judi Dench (*Shakespeare in Love*), Lynn Redgrave (*Gods and Monsters*).
- Best Performance by an actor in a supporting role - Ed

- Harris (*The Truman Show*), Geoffrey Rush (*Elizabeth* and *Shakespeare in Love*), Tom Wilkinson (*Shakespeare in Love*).
- Alexander Korda Award for the outstanding British film of the year - *Elizabeth*, *Hilary and Jackie*, *Little Voice*, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, *My Name is Joe*, *Sliding Doors*.
- David Lean Award for best achievement in direction - Shekhar Kapur (*Elizabeth*), Steven Spielberg (*Saving Private Ryan*), John Madden (*Shakespeare in Love*), Peter Weir (*The Truman Show*).
- Orange Audience Award for most popular film of 1998 - *A Bug's Life*, *Armageddon*, *Doctor Dolittle*, *Enemy of the State*, *Godzilla*, *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sliding Doors*, *There's Something About Mary*.

Ranger on trial for Ward murder

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Nairobi

AT THE opening of a murder trial yesterday in Nairobi, John Ward once again sat through details of the gruesome killing of his daughter, Julie, and her "probable" rape in September 1988. He had previously exposed a falsified police report blaming her death on possible suicide and wild animals, and then endured a four-month murder case in 1992 against two innocent game rangers.

But this time, the man that Mr Ward always believed had played a part in his daughter's death, Simon Makallah, the former chief game warden of Masai Mara Game Reserve, and now the assistant director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, is on trial for her murder. A second case, against David Nchoke, was dismissed through lack of evidence last month.

Mr Ward is again running the gamut in a tiny Nairobi courtroom. His tension was evident - he asked, as one photographer continually flashed close-up portraits: "How many of those have you taken over the last 10 years?" His wife, Jan Ward, did not attend.

Mr Ward looked to the floor as the prosecution described how on 13 September 1988 Julie's left lower leg, parts of her jaw and pieces of her scalp with hair attached were "discovered in a remote place in the Masai Mara Game Park". Her skull was discovered on 20 September and handed over to her father in a hotel room.

Ms Ward's remains were later flown to Britain to an independent forensic scientist, who is now too ill to give evidence in Kenya. The prosecution will attempt to take his testimony in Britain.

There is little that is new to this trial, other than Mr Makallah's vehicle work cards, which detail, according to the independent prosecutor Salim Dhanji, "his movements and time and distance from any particular location".

Mr Dhanji said that Mr Makallah found Ms Ward's remains too quickly, showing "he had prior knowledge of where the remains were".

Mr Makallah also used extraordinary lies to try to distance himself from Julie Ward's death, Mr Dhanji said. But the catalogue of incompetence, cover-ups and untruths underline the fact this is a case that depends entirely on circumstantial evidence, 10 years after the murder.


The frustrations of Kenyan justice are familiar - the prosecution has found that a crucial file relating to evidence given by Mr Makallah in the 1992 trial has "gone missing". "That's normal," whispered a legal observer, rubbing two fingers together to signal bribery.

Mr Dhanji, when concluding the opening of the trial, felt compelled to remind the court that a great deal had been written on the murder, both locally and internationally, which in fairness to Mr Makallah should be disregarded.

"This is not a film, or a book, or a newspaper article; it is a trial for murder," he said.

The trial is expected to last several months.

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All praise Stockport, home to the famous brick viaduct

PRAYERS STOP dead at 2.33pm in Parliament, religious devotion being subject to the same intransigent timetable as all other parliamentary business. Worldly pieties often continue for a little longer, though. Yesterday, for example, Chris Smith's first question was a shameless underarm bowl from a Labour backbencher, Karen Buck, fearlessly demanding to know what progress the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was making towards increasing the representation of women and people from ethnic minorities. Just as fearlessly Mr Smith replied that they were making capital progress, at which

point the congregation murmured the time-honoured response, "though obviously a great deal remains to be achieved in this area". Then, at 2.35pm, real politics started, with Crispin Blunt asking a question about the unconscionable deprivation of Reigate when it came to lottery fund handouts. Tony Banks conceded that Mr Blunt's constituency was lagging a little behind the national average. Perhaps other lottery projects just had more to recommend them, he suggested, implacably. Perhaps it's all a conspiracy, suggested Dennis Skinner, rising to remind the House that Bolsover and Chesterfield,

both constituencies with avowedly socialist MPs, had done conspicuously badly for lottery grants under the Conservative government. "If the boot has been put on the other foot a little then no bad thing!" Injustice for all was Mr Skinner's cry, and his reish at this reversal of fortunes earned him a tribute from Mr Banks for his zeal in attack.

This being the session for questions about tourism there will always be MPs who try to boost their own local attractions, however hopeless the enterprise seems. Ann Coffey, for example, drew the attention of the House to the glories of Stockport, a constituency that includes "the largest brick-built railway viaduct in the world". Some of Ms Coffey's colleagues looked sceptical at the prospects of

building a local tourist industry on such a foundation, but I thought I discerned some expressions of interest in the public gallery. Do you mean to say we could be looking at masonry in Stockport, people were saying to themselves, instead of trying to fight sleep here?

But then Mr Banks came on again for a second set and everyone perked up. The cheeky comper for Westminster's Cockney Knees-Up Experience (all the wheels you can eat and comic banter thrown in free) is always a crowd pleaser and he didn't let us down yesterday. Simon Hughes acted as his first straight man, kicking off him and the Prime Minister for "kicking the England manager when he was down". Mr Banks noted drily that this tackle was so late that all the players had left the field. Then he defended himself, it wasn't easy for ministers, he pointed out, since commenting on such matters was like "walking on eggshells while wearing swimming flippers". This phrase is a good example of Mr Banks' continuing commitment to added value in metaphor provision. Most junior ministers would have satisfied themselves with the cliché, but Mr Banks went one sur-really flapping step further.

His best line came later, though, in response to a question from Claire Ward, the youngest member in the House. He had enjoyed visiting her Watford constituency recently, he said, particularly since he had suffered an election defeat there in the 1979 election. He then pointed out that she had been only seven at the time, an age that made her "too young to vote and too old to kiss". Several MPs quivered visibly at the delicious frisson this turn of phrase provoked, because there is more than one MP who believes the situation is now exactly the opposite. Ms Ward is now old enough to vote and young enough to kiss.

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

cludes "the largest brick-built railway viaduct in the world". Some of Ms Coffey's colleagues looked sceptical at the prospects of

Lords should be a Senate, say Tories

THE CONSERVATIVE Party is ready to support radical plans to replace the House of Lords with a second chamber based on an elected US-style Senate.

In an attempt to outflank the Government, the Conservatives are close to backing the idea of a 360-member chamber that would be elected on 15-year terms. The ambitious plans emerged yesterday as the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords announced after its first meeting that it would be holding future meetings in public.

To give "ordinary people" a say in the shape of the second chamber, the Commission will stage its hearings across the country in the form of a consultation roadshow.

However, many leading Tories believe that they can embarrass Tony Blair over his intention to create a "transitional" Lords made up of members or "cronies" appointed by the Government.

The Tory proposal, which has been drawn up by the party's alternative commission on House of Lords reform chaired by Lord Mackay of

CONSTITUTION
BY PAUL WAUGH AND SARAH SCHAEFER

Clashfern, would introduce regional representatives who would serve to "glue" Britain together after devolution.

Although bishops and law lords would be retained, most members would be elected on 15-year terms. According to party sources, the idea of a wholly elected second chamber is gaining ground among MPs and peers who fear the Government is trying to weaken the chamber's powers by failing to set out stage two of the reform.

"There is a great deal of debate going on within the party at the moment. While most agree on the merits of a wholly elected second chamber, there are still many different views on how to get there," the source said.

The Tory commission is also considering giving the second chamber the power to initiate legislation and greater ability to scrutinise secondary legislation such as European directives. The body, set up by William Hague last year, is expected to report later this

spring and give formal evidence to the Royal Commission in the summer.

The Commission, which is chaired by Lord Wakeham, a Conservative peer, announced yesterday that it would seek evidence from a wide range of experts, interested parties and the public. The House of Lords Bill currently before Parliament will abolish most hereditary peers and create a "transitional" chamber made up of 91 hereditaries and life peers.

The Government has yet to decide the shape of its "second stage" reforms and has agreed that the Commission should attempt to define the role, functions and composition of the Lords for the future.

The Commission, which has to report by 31 December, is made up of Gerald Kaufman MP, Lord Hurd, Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, Professor Anthony King, Bill Morris, Professor David Oliver, Kenneth Munro and Ann Benyon.



The actor Richard Wilson ringing a bell outside Westminster Cathedral yesterday, part of a worldwide bell-ringing campaign to mark the day the treaty to ban landmines came into effect. More than 60 countries have ratified the treaty to ban anti-personnel mines. Tom Craig

Labour MPs complain of bullying by ministers

SENIOR LABOUR MPs warned ministers yesterday to treat Commons select committees with more respect after backbench complaints of cabinet "arrogance".

Robert Sheldon, a veteran Labour MP and chairman of the powerful Commons Liaison committee, revealed that he was reviewing relations with the Government in the light of the concerns.

The Liaison committee, which represents all 27 select committees, has heard a catalogue of complaints about the Government's attempts to influence and control them.

SELECT COMMITTEES
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Chairmen of the select committees have been told to draw up dossiers of complaints from MPs who feel that they have been bullied or their work undermined by ministers. Select committees are supposed to be independent bodies holding the Government to account. The review would represent the most thorough inquiry yet into relations between the executive and the legislature.

Worries about ministerial interference were heightened

when it emerged that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had received leaked copies of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's scathing report into the Foreign Office's handling of the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair. Ernie Ross, Labour MP for Dundee West, was forced to resign from the committee last week when he admitted sending the report to Mr Cook.

Mr Sheldon, MP for Ashton under Lyne, said yesterday it was vital that the committees should be able to carry out their work unimpeded.

"What we want to make sure is that select committees con-

tinued to occupy this position of questioning the executive and bringing their reports out without any fear of the consequences for the individual members or the select committee system as a whole," he told Radio 4's *The World at One*.

Mr Sheldon said it was "not very helpful" for ministers to make pronouncements on select committee reports without studying the findings in detail. Gwyneth Dunwoody, who chairs the Transport Select Committee, also complained the Government was in danger of "forgetting" that the seat of its power lay in the Commons.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Health costs of smoking

THE ANNUAL cost to the health service of treating smoking-related diseases in England was estimated at between £1.4bn and £1.7bn, said Public Health Minister Tessa Jowell.

Legal meal

SCIENTISTS FROM biotechnology firm Zeneca Plant Science who were pictured eating genetically modified (GM) tomatoes have not breached environmental safety legislation, Environment minister Michael Meacher said.

Long holiday

THE NEED for a three-month summer recess was questioned by David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North. "Why can't MPs not return to work in the middle of September like some other European parliaments, instead of the beginning of October?" he asked.

Fresh battle looms over gay age of consent

THE GOVERNMENT was bracing itself for another constitutional clash with the Lords last night as MPs endorsed legislation to lower the age of consent for homosexuals to 16.

MPs backed a new clause to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill by 274 votes to 64. While ministers have introduced safeguards into the Bill to protect vulnerable teenagers from abuse, peers are still likely to oppose the measure on the grounds of morality.

Baroness Young, who led peers' opposition when it was debated as part of the Criminal Justice Bill last July, said the legislation was still insufficient to ensure that youngsters in care would not be abused.

"I have not changed my mind... How can you when there is such a moral issue involved," said Baroness Young, the former Tory leader of the Lords. "I have had thousands of letters of support from the public, including from the gay community... and I am looking to table amendments once the Bill reaches the Lords."

GAY RIGHTS
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

If the peers oppose the Bill, it will then go back to the Commons where MPs are likely to reverse the defeat with an overwhelming majority.

Government business managers fear this "constitutional ping-pong" could disrupt the tight legislative timetable.

But Tory sources accuse ministers of introducing such controversial legislation in this parliamentary session to give them further ammunition to scrap hereditaries' voting rights with the House of Lords Bill.

In the Commons, MPs also backed an amendment ending prosecution for children under 16 who have homosexual sex with adults over the age of consent.

At present boys and girls who engage in homosexual sex with adult partners face prosecution, whereas children of the same age who engage in heterosexual sex with adults do not.

THE HOUSE



BBC chief joins Blair's staff

A new row over the influence of spin doctors emerged with the appointment of the head of BBC's Research Unit to 10 Downing Street. Bill Bush will leave the BBC and join Tony Blair's staff as Head of Research at the Strategic Communications Unit. He is one of the leading experts on elections and voting behaviour.

Today's Agenda

Commons: 2.30pm
Health questions.
■ Opposition debate on Sierra Leone.
■ Short debate on access to justice for deaf people.
Lords: 2.30pm
■ Commonwealth Development Corp Bill, report.
■ Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill, report.
■ Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, report.

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Robbie Williams
aces £1m bill

People fail to grasp
that you can be racist
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TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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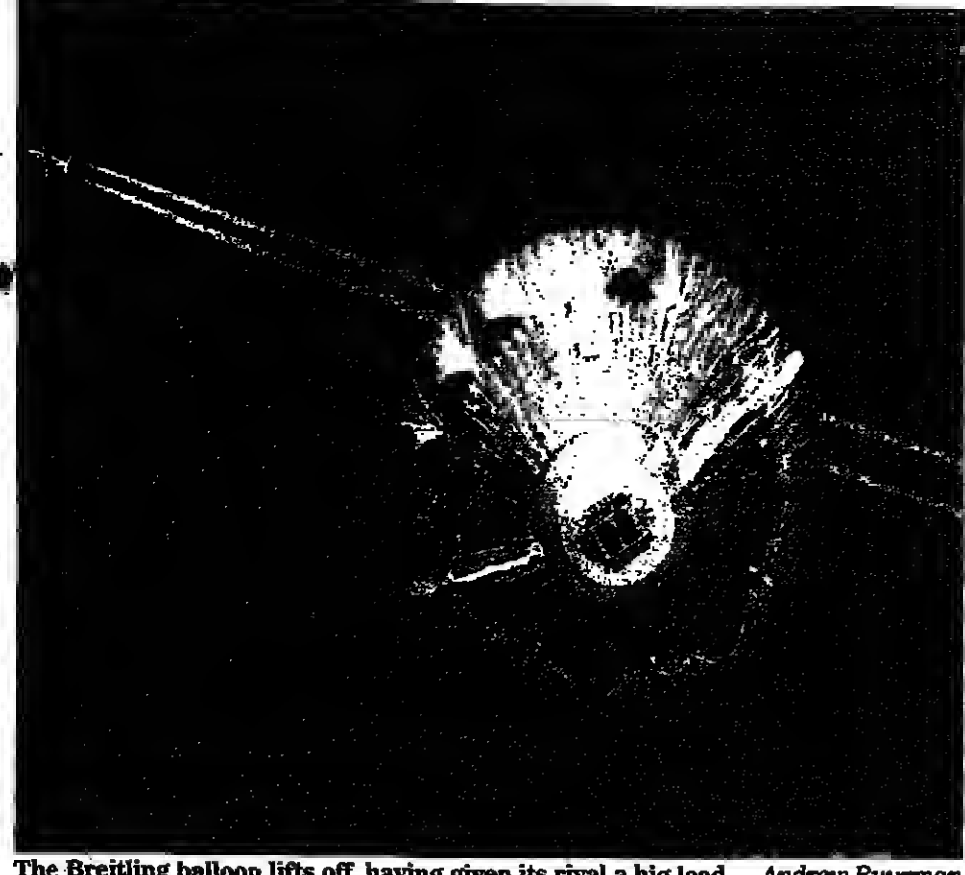


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Balloon takes short-cut in record chase



The Breitling balloon lifts off, having given its rival a big lead. Andrew Burrman

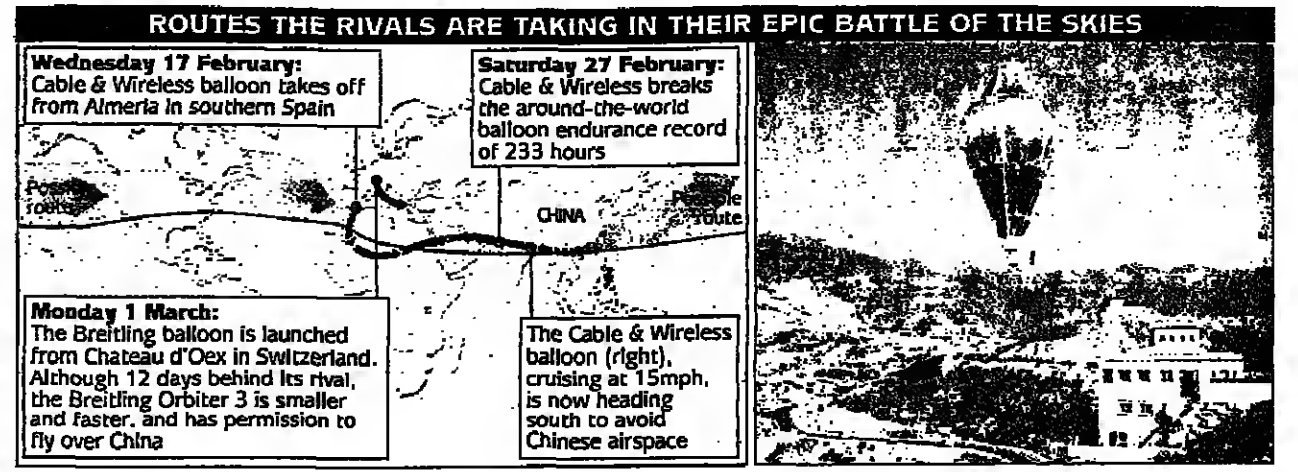
BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

IN AESOP'S fable, the tortoise won the race by plodding on steadily, while the hare rested, thinking he could sprint past his rival. But in a modern race in the skies, the outcome is far less certain.

Two teams are competing to be the first to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon. The Cable and Wireless entry, which lifted off 13 days ago, has a head start, but the Breitling Orbiter 3, which left yesterday, is smaller, lighter and faster.

And, crucially, the Breitling 3 has permission to fly over Chinese airspace, shortening its journey by some 4,000 miles. Cable and Wireless must go round, thanks to Richard Branson. His balloon drifted over China before Christmas, provoking an official complaint and all British-registered balloons have been banned from Chinese space while the Civil Aviation Authority investigates.

Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss pilot, and Brian Jones, from Wiltshire, set off from Chateau d'Oex, in Switzerland, at 0805 GMT yesterday and quickly



reached an average speed of 30mph. Their rivals, Andy Elson, 45, from Wells in Somerset, and Colin Prescott, 48, from Stockbridge in Hampshire, are drifting at 15mph over the Bay of Bengal, hoping to reach Japan in four days.

But Aaron Noble, the flight manager for Breitling, said his team hopes to reach Japan in eight days, narrowing the gap. "Their balloon is built for a slow trudge around the world and ours is built for a quick dash," he said. "We cannot catch up if we use the same route. Over the Pacific we will be sharing the same winds so we will remain four days behind but it all depends what happens when we reach America."

"Cable and Wireless may decide to go across America and Canada and by the time we get there the winds may have changed. Then it might be better to go south to California, which is shorter and we might catch up that way."

A spokeswoman for the Cable and Wireless team admitted having to go around China was frustrating but said they were too busy concentrating on their own flight to worry about Breitling.

At 191ft, the Cable and Wireless balloon is 40ft taller than the Breitling one, with a capacity of 1.1m cubic feet compared with 650,000. The fuel is kerosene, instead of the more usual propane, which can be stored in lighter unpressurised containers, allowing the craft to stay in the air longer.

As Mr Elson and Mr Prescott cannot fly over China, they have allowed 25 days for their 20,000-mile journey. Mr Piccard, 41, whose grandfather Auguste set the first balloon altitude record in the 1930s, and Mr Jones are hoping to cover 16,000 miles in 16 days.

Richard Branson now says he will try to circumnavigate the globe from the southern hemisphere in the summer.

In Aesop's fable, slow and steady won the race. But in the latest challenge, Mr Branson is not even a contender.

Robbie Williams faces £1m bill

THE POP STAR Robbie Williams could face a bill of more than £1m if he loses the High Court battle he resumed yesterday against his former manager.

Williams, who won three Brit awards a fortnight ago, is appealing against an earlier High Court ruling that he must pay £90,000 in commission to Nigel Martin-Smith, who was responsible for starting Take That, the phenomenally successful boy band that launched the singer's career. Costs, interest and VAT are expected to take the bill comfortably past the £1m mark.

The original action was rooted in Williams's acrimonious split from Take That. He left in July 1995, calling his erstwhile colleagues "selfish, arrogant and thick". As part of his contract, however, he was obliged to retain Mr Martin-Smith for a six-month notice period until February 1996.

When the singer refused to pay commission after signing for a new record company, Mr Martin-Smith sued Williams for breach of contract.

Opening the appeal yesterday, Michael Silverleaf QC, described how Williams began to find the "very tight restrictions" imposed by Mr Martin-Smith on the band's lifestyle and activities "somewhat difficult."

"He began to go out to parties and enjoy himself," said Mr Silverleaf. "It became clear that Mr Williams ultimately wanted to leave the band... He just didn't feel he could stick with the constraints that were being imposed."

Since leaving Take That, Williams has shrugged off alcohol and drug problems and gone on to produce two highly successful solo albums - *Life Through a Lens* and *I've Been Expecting You*.

The hearing continues today.

DAVID AARONOVITCH

People fail to grasp that you can be racist without knowing it

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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£2bn float will crown the fall and rise of Canary Wharf

By JOHN WILLCOCK AND CLARE GARNER

ONE OF the newest and most instantly recognisable features of London's skyline - Canary Wharf and its fifty-storey tower - is to be floated on the stock market.

The Docklands development once hailed as the shining beacon of Thatcherite yuppieism formally rose from the ashes of recession yesterday with its owners announcing it has been valued at more than £2bn.

The flotation brings the fortunes of Canary Wharf full circle. After being endorsed by Margaret Thatcher as the financial face of the future, the project proved a disaster for the Canadian real estate developer whose dream it was.

Now Paul Reichmann, who led a group of investors to buy back Canary Wharf from its bankers in 1995 for £800m, has recovered his optimism. He intends to place 25 per cent of the shares with institutional investors for an expected £500m and keep a stake worth £200m. The rest will stay with existing investors. The deal is expected to be done by Easter.

Under an agreement with the Government, the proceeds will go towards the Canary Wharf Group's final contribution of £70m to £90m to the Jubilee Line extension. The much-delayed Underground link to central London, which promises to be an efficient alternative to the erratic Docklands Light Rail, is due to open later this year.



Paul Reichmann: His dream has finally come true

The group also intends to cut its debt by £350m, leaving it owing a total of £500m. The remainder of the flotation proceeds will help to fund the 84-acre scheme's ambitious development programme.

"This is a huge watershed for us," George Iacobescu, the group's chief executive, said yesterday. "More than 60 per cent of the project is completed or under way."

Twenty-five thousand people work at Canary Wharf, a figure expected to treble in 10 years. A few years ago the complex resembled a ghost town, with few commercial outlets.

But despite the recent explosion of shops, restaurants and bars, many workers still feel cut off from the real world once they enter the futuristic, steel complex.

"It's like *The Truman Show*," said Anne Lynch, 36, sitting on a bench in the basement. "This is what we do every lunchtime. We always see the same people go past. It's really sad."

Indie Sangha, 25, an administrator at the Financial Services Authority, agreed. "It's isolated," she said. "It's characterless. Everyone looks like a drone."

Such disenchantment did not seem to be linked to how much people earn. Bankers and builders expressed their dislike of the vibe yesterday.

"There's no atmosphere," said Matthew Tooth, 23, who recently joined a bank at the Wharf. "It's so business-oriented. Everyone walks with their head down."

To Joe Major, 40, who is in-

stalling heating and ventilation in the tower, Canary Wharf is "Americanism gone mad", particularly the comprehensive ban on smoking. "It's impersonal - I can't wait to get back to the City," he said. "The architecture's lovely, but you don't want to walk around with

a camera every day." Canary Wharf even has its own newspaper. Dennis Abbott, editor of *The Wharf*, said he never ceases to be amazed by his readers' attitude. "This place was built on the back of the yuppie boom and died with it," he said. "What we have now

is a reinvented yuppie, a compassionate yuppie."

Undeterred by a 1996 bombing attempt by the IRA, Canary Wharf's current investors include Prince Al Waleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud, CNA Financial Corporation, Franklin Mutual Series Fund and affiliates of Republic New York Corporation. Eleven buildings in the scheme are complete and a further seven under construction, including a 42-storey site that will be the headquarters of HSBC, owner of Midlands Bank.

Investment banks including Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Credit Suisse First Boston are already installed, and the central tower - Britain's highest building - is home to nine national newspapers. Citigroup is about to

complete one tower and is due to announce later this week that it is to build a second, bigger one next door, to house its investment banking arm Salomon Smith Barney, now in Victoria, central London.

During the recession of the early Nineties Canary Wharf was looked upon as an Eighties white elephant. The only way to attract tenants was with low charges and lengthy rent-free periods.

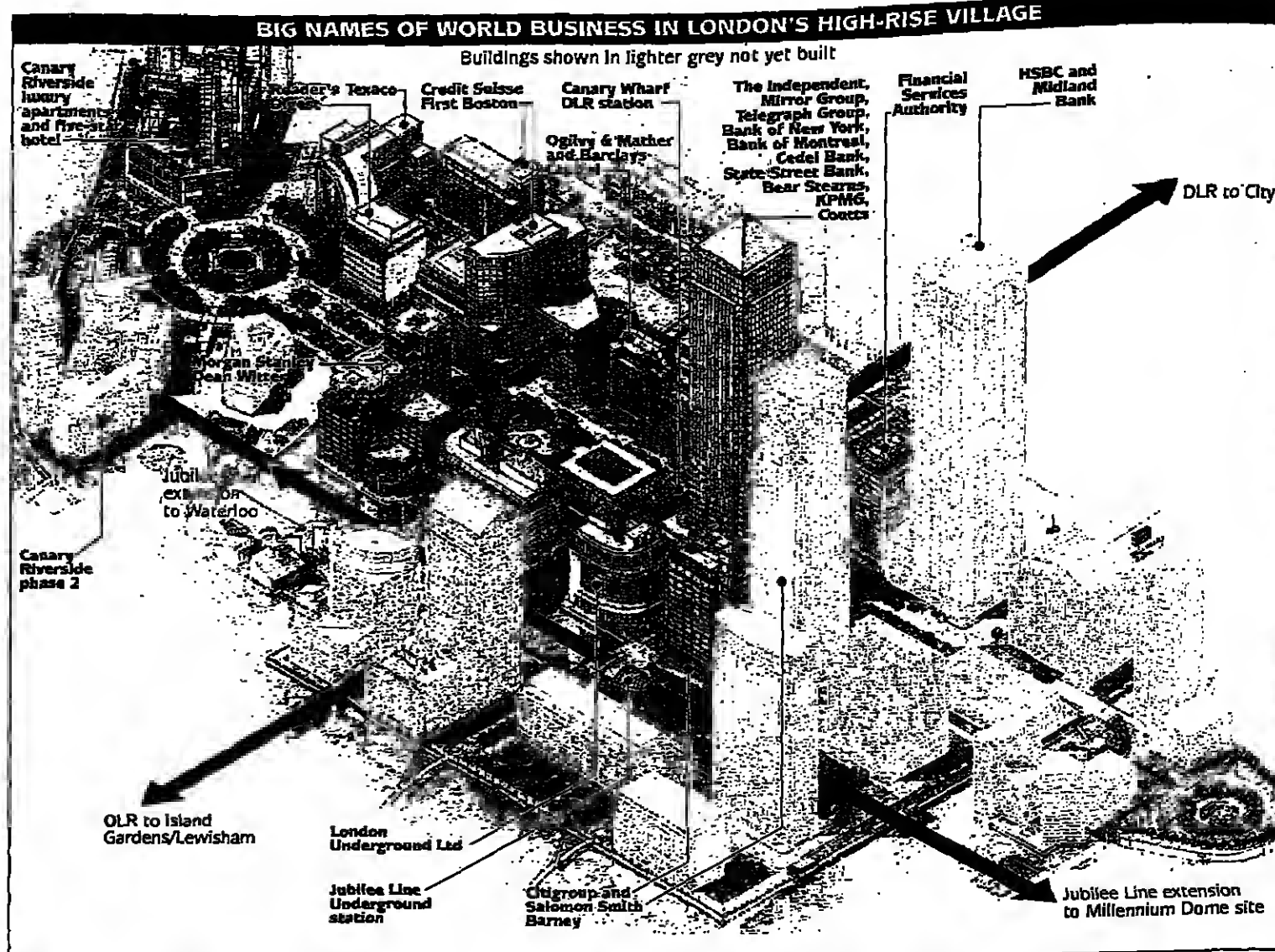
But Mr Iacobescu said yesterday that such incentives were finished. Rental income from Canary Wharf had doubled since 1995, from "the mid teens (pounds per square foot) to the mid thirties".

The plans to double the building space to 10 million square feet in five to seven years are expected in a pros-

pectus for potential investors to be published in 10 days.

Canary Wharf's long-term viability depends on its ability to attract financial institutions. There were suggestions that staying out of the euro could affect London as a prime financial centre, losing vital business to Frankfurt. That is not the view of Mr Iacobescu. "London will remain Europe's financial centre," he said.

For those who may consider the complex soulless, help is at hand. The Rev Gordon Warren, rector of St Anne's Church in Limehouse, has the Wharf within his parish. "I've raised people's awareness to the lack of spiritual facility," he said. "There needs to be a centre of community and there isn't anything." He hopes to get space for a chapel.



HISTORY OF THE WHARF

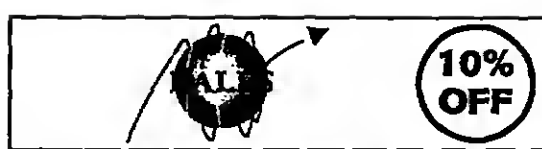
- 1982 Thatcher government sets up enterprise zone in the Docklands
- 1988 Reichmann brothers take over Canary Wharf development and invest £1.6bn
- 1991 One Canada Square, Britain's tallest building, is completed
- 1992 Canary Wharf collapses with debts of £576m
- 1993 Banks put together £1.1bn rescue package for Canary Wharf
- 1995 Reichmanns lead investor group to buy back Canary Wharf for £800m
- 1999 Canary Wharf to float on stock market, valuing development at up to £2.6bn

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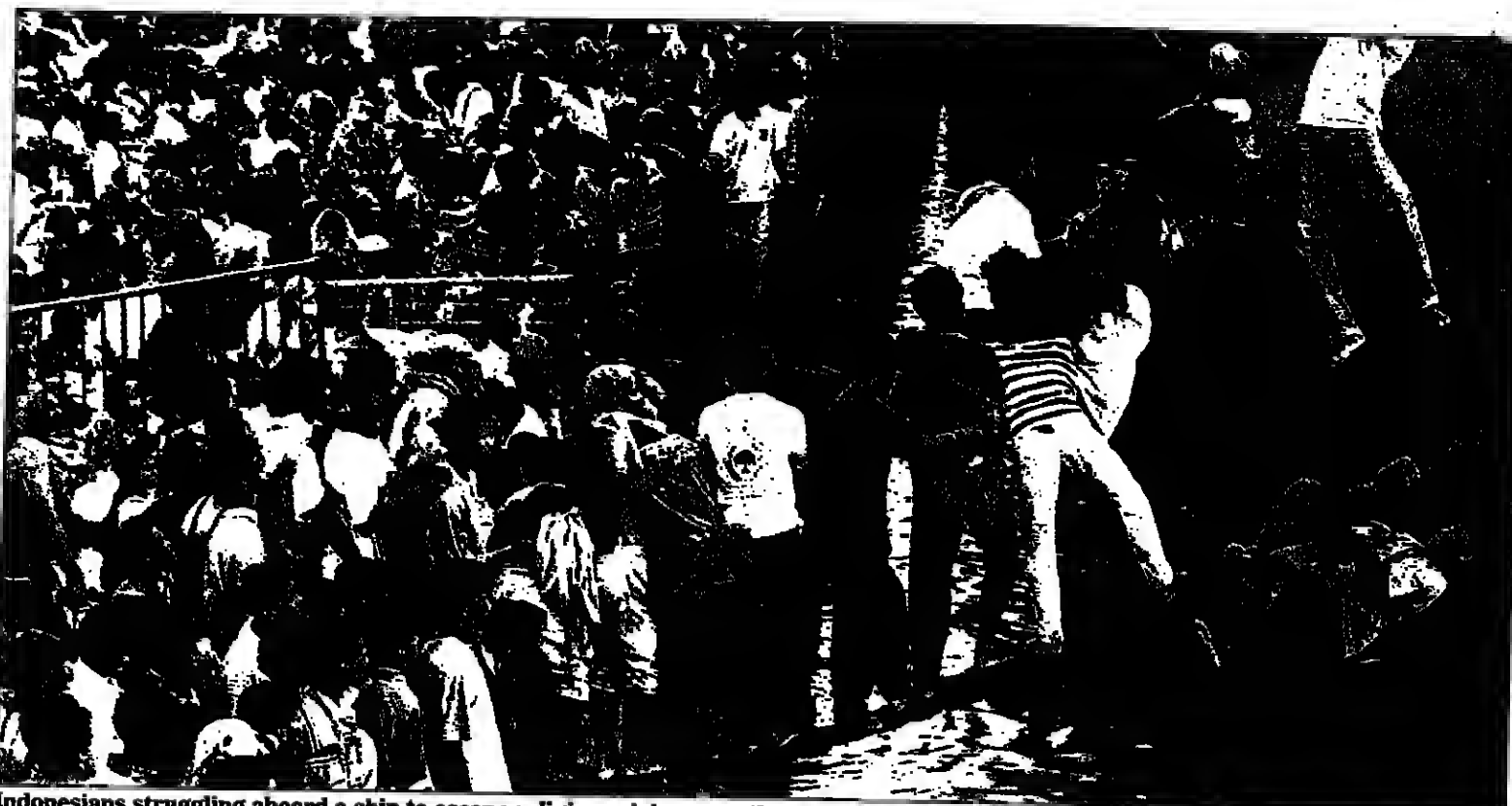
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John Willcock

Religious war tears Spice Island apart



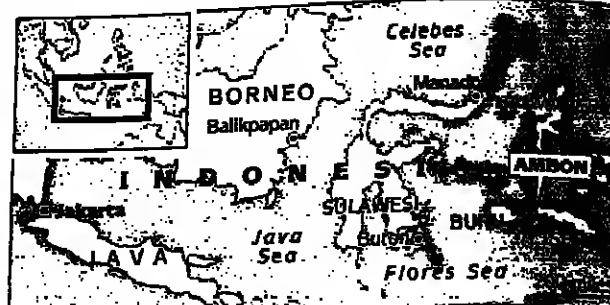
Indonesians struggling aboard a ship to escape religious violence on the Spice Island of Ambon where 200 have died

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Jakarta

AT LEAST 10 people were shot or tortured to death in the Spice Islands in what Indonesia's military commander described yesterday as the country's worst outbreak of communal violence.

General Wiranto, head of the Indonesian armed forces, warned that the battles between Christians and Muslims on the island of Ambon had the potential to tear apart the world's fourth most populous country. "We have to handle this problem," he said in the capital, Jakarta. "If not, it could create disintegration and instability in the nation."

Conflicting reports suggested more than 10 people have been killed since Sunday in at least two separate incidents in Ambon, the capital of Maluku province. "We have never faced such brutal mass rioting before," General Wiranto said at the launch of a new rapid reaction force of 5,000 elite anti-riot troops. "Never before had people



used ethnicity, religion, race and group interest to attack one another. And never before was religion used as a reason to attack one another, and arguments in the market flared into mass riots," he said.

The terror in Ambon began in January. It has quickly developed into the grimmest of the many local conflicts that have sprung up across the vast archipelago since the three-decade-long dictatorship under President Suharto came to an end last May. Ninety per cent of Indonesia's 210 million people are Muslim, but in Maluku, known in Dutch colonial times as the Spice Islands, there is a Christian majority, which lives alongside Muslim settlers from other parts of Indonesia.

Many of the immigrants are businessmen and entrepreneurs and, compared with other Indonesian hot spots, such as East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya, the communities have lived in relative harmony.

Since the Indonesian economy collapsed in 1997, however, resentment has grown at the settlers' relative prosperity, although there was no obvious trigger for the clashes.

About 200 people have been shot by police, burnt to death in their homes, or killed in street fighting with home-made spears, bombs and bows. Villages across the island have been razed, and rival groups have taken to stopping cars and checking the religion of their occupants. Thousands of refugees have sought to escape on overcrowded boats.

The national police spokesman, Brigadier General Togar Sianipar, said yesterday that six people were tortured to death after a battle on Sunday between Muslims and Christians armed with spears and machetes. Other reports suggested a number of people were shot dead yesterday by police officers attempting to quell further disturbances.

Muslim witnesses quoted by the Associated Press news agency said that five people were killed after a mob of Christians burnt Muslim homes and threw petrol bombs at worshippers emerging from a mosque on the outskirts of Ambon town. One Christian man was killed, and four Muslims were shot dead by police, who have been ordered by General Wiranto to shoot rioters on sight.

The most alarming reports passed on by Western diplomats, say Muslim and Christian police and soldiers have taken to firing on civilians of the other religion.

But the reports were not independently confirmed and in Jakarta, Brigadier General Togar denied there were any splits within the security forces. "Up to now the armed forces are still solid," he said.

Unemployment in Indonesia hit 15.4 million people or 17.1 per cent of the workforce in 1998, while the number of poor rose to 40 per cent of the 194 million population, President B.J. Habibie said yesterday. Government estimates had put the jobless figure at 20 million.

Moderates set for victory in Iran elections

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran was heading for another victory in his battle with the country's conservative clerical establishment yesterday. Early results of the elections for Tehran's city council showed moderate supporters of Mr Khatami were well ahead.

Pro-Khatami candidates, led by the former interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, were expected to take 12 of the 15 city council seats, according to state-run radio. Of the remaining three seats, two were likely to be won by candidates fielded jointly by the moderates and conservatives, and the manager of the popular Firoz football club, who was clinging on to the final seat in Tehran.

State radio said about 25 million voters, or 65 per cent, turned out for the local polls, introduced by Mr Khatami to help to break the centralised grip of the conservative establishment. Thirty-nine million people, aged 15 and over, were eligible to vote on Friday.

Mostafa Tajzadeh, deputy interior minister and head of the electoral commission, said women and independent candidates were leading in many provincial towns, where counting was almost over. "There are

BY JAMES ROBERTS

a few towns or cities where women are not represented. In some cities they hold a majority or are even the front-runners. This is a giant step towards participation in the country's public administration," he said. In Tehran, two women candidates - Jamileh Kadivar and Fatemeh Jalalpour - are among the top 15.

In the holy city of Mashhad, the stronghold of the influential conservative cleric Ayatollah Abbas Vaez-Tabasi, the four front-runners are independents, followed by reformers and conservatives, according to Abror newspaper.

"Independents broke the grip of main factions in the provinces. This is a giant step towards decentralisation of power," Mr Tajzadeh said. "The monopoly (on power) was rejected through the democratic process."

Reports from central Isfahan, the most politicised city after Tehran, showed reformers leading by a wide margin. Local journalists said pro-Khatami candidates were poised to capture seven of 11 seats on the city council, with the balance going to conservatives.

IN BRIEF

Obasanjo declared poll winner

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL electoral commission yesterday proclaimed the former military ruler General Olusegun Obasanjo the winner of a weekend presidential election, brushing aside protests from the only other candidate, Olu Falae, who alleged massive poll-rigging.

Stolen Generation seek damages

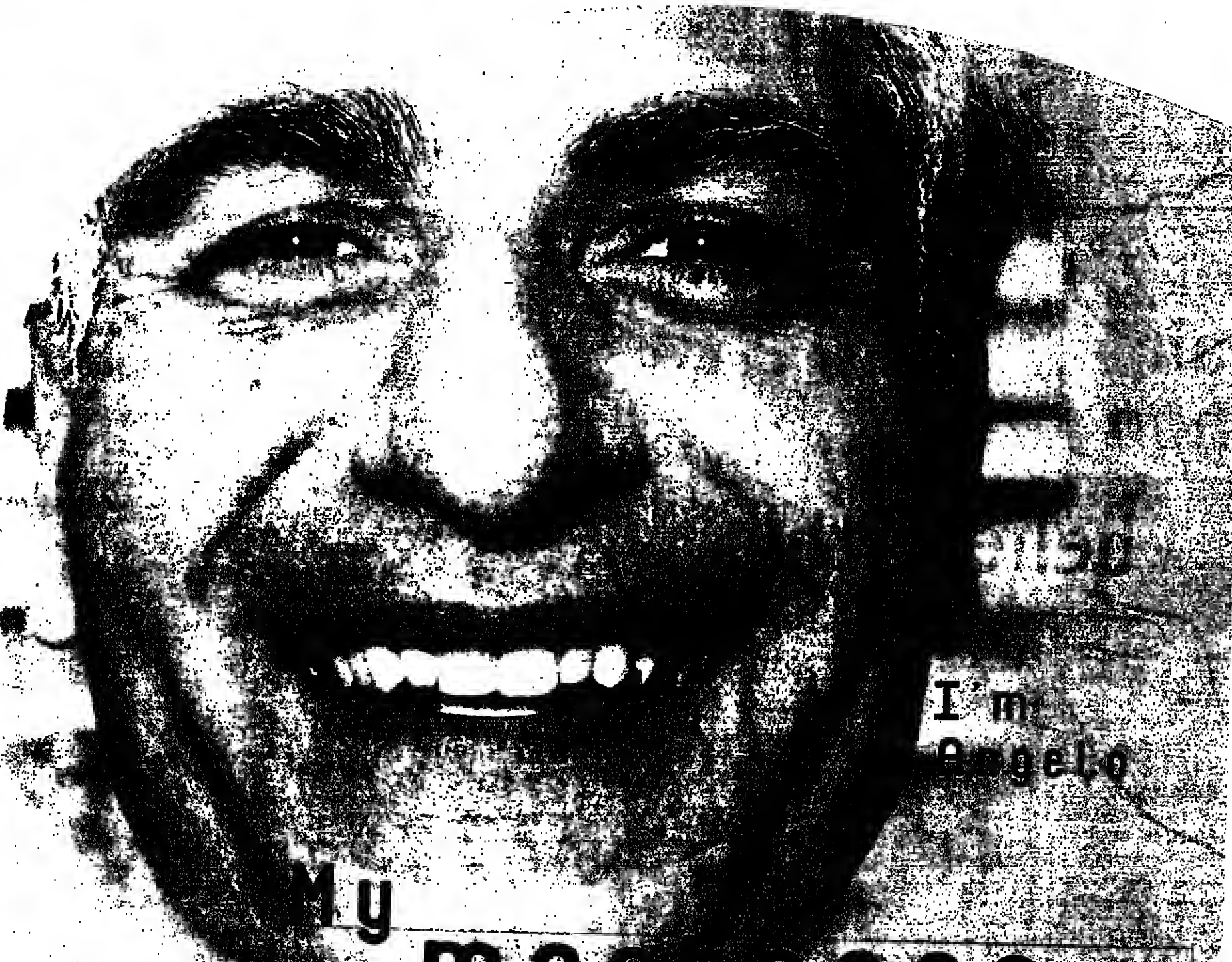
TWO ABORIGINES, Lorna Cubillo, 60, and Peter Gunner, 51, from Australia's "Stolen Generation", opened a court case, seeking damages from the government for being forcibly removed from their parents and raised as whites. If successful, thousands could take legal action.

Dispensation for Mother Teresa

THE POPE has granted a special dispensation in the case of Mother Teresa from the Catholic Church rule that five years must pass after a person's death before the bureaucratic procedure that can lead to sainthood can begin. The nun died two years ago.

Turkey's £56m aid to Kurd region

BULENT ECEVIT, the Turkish Prime Minister, unveiled details of a £56m economic development plan for the south-east where Kurds are concentrated. Since the capture of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan last month, the government has stressed the need for development.



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**erates set
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By James
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Police chief sacked in racism row

AS POLICE in New York City try to refute allegations of racism prompted by the shooting last month of an unarmed West African by four white officers, the chief of New Jersey's state police was without a job yesterday after being fired for publicly blaming drug trafficking on ethnic minorities.

The abrupt dismissal of Colonel Carl Williams by the Governor of New Jersey, Christie Todd Whitman, has thrown a fresh spotlight on simmering tensions between the African-American community and state and city police forces around the country.

Colonel Williams was sacked after saying blacks and Hispanics were more likely than whites to be involved in the cocaine and marijuana market.

His sacking will feed a widening debate in New York about racism in law enforcement that echoes the scandal engulfing the Metropolitan Police in London in response to the Lawrence report. Black and Hispanic leaders in the US have long complained about unfair police harassment of non-whites.

New York, where the force has been credited with a dramatic lowering of crime rates, witnessed large protests early last month after the shooting of Amadou Diallo in the hallway of his apartment building in the Bronx. The officers now under investigation are being asked to

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

explain why they fired 41 shots at Diallo, who apparently was breaking no law and was carrying no weapon.

Black leaders in New Jersey had already been calling for the sacking of Colonel Williams, the highest police officer in the state, arguing that he had turned a blind eye to so-called "racial profiling" by state troopers on the interstate highway system.

Condemned as illegal, "profiling" refers to the singling out of non-white drivers by police officers watching for anyone violating traffic laws.

Until last weekend, the police chief enjoyed the support of Governor Whitman. She abandoned him after the publication of an interview he gave to *The Star-Ledger* newspaper in Newark on Sunday. Remarks that Colonel Williams made in the interview drew an instant and furious response from minority leaders.

"The comments were insensitive and absolutely counter to bolstering confidence in law enforcement," the Governor's spokesman said. "There are vast segments of the New Jersey public whose confidence in the system is weakened."

Speaking to the newspaper, Colonel Williams said it would be naive not to recognise that

race is a factor in drug activity in the state. "Two weeks ago, the president of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the president of Mexico about drugs. He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England," Colonel Williams said.

"Today with this drug problem, the drug problem is cocaine or marijuana. It is most likely a minority group that's involved with that," he went on. "They aren't going to ask some Irishman to be part of their gang because they don't trust him."

Black members of the New Jersey assembly have promised hearings into racism in the police force.



Colonel Carl Williams, who has been sacked as New Jersey police chief after making comments on drugs and race. Daniel Hulshizer/AP

Man charged over arms smuggling

A CHINESE national was facing charges in Boston yesterday after customs officials said they had caught him trying to smuggle sensitive equipment out of the United States that could be used in upgrading missile guidance systems.

The arrest of the man, identified as Yao Yi, comes at an embarrassing moment as the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, pays an official visit to Peking. Claims that China has tried illegally to obtain sensitive US weapons technology is a delicate issue between the Chinese and US governments.

It was not clear whether Mr Yao, who was arrested last week in California and brought yes-

terday to Boston, was attempting to smuggle the goods - fibre-optic gyroscopes - on his own behalf or for the Chinese military.

The gyroscopes can be fitted to long-range missiles to enhance accuracy. They can also be fitted to smart bombs and aircraft guidance systems.

According to police charges, Mr Yao tried to buy the gyroscopes from a Massachusetts firm but approval for the sale was denied by the State Department. He apparently then approached another supplier, but that company was a dummy corporation set up by Customs for the purpose of entrapping Mr Yao.

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Michelin honours poetic chef of Auvergne

A SELF-TAUGHT chef who finds inspiration – and wild herbs – while running in his native hills in the southern Auvergne won the highest accolade in French cookery yesterday.

By JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

Michel Bras, 52, was given the coveted third Michelin star for his mountain-top, hotel-restaurant near Lagniole, 3,700ft up in the Aveyron hills of south-western France.

His elevation by the 1999 Michelin Guide marks a – possibly deliberate – turning away from the globe-trotting, superstar chefs who have made the gastronomic news in France in recent years. Mr Bras, who learnt cooking mostly from his mother, specialises in elaborate versions of regional dishes and rarely strays from home territory.

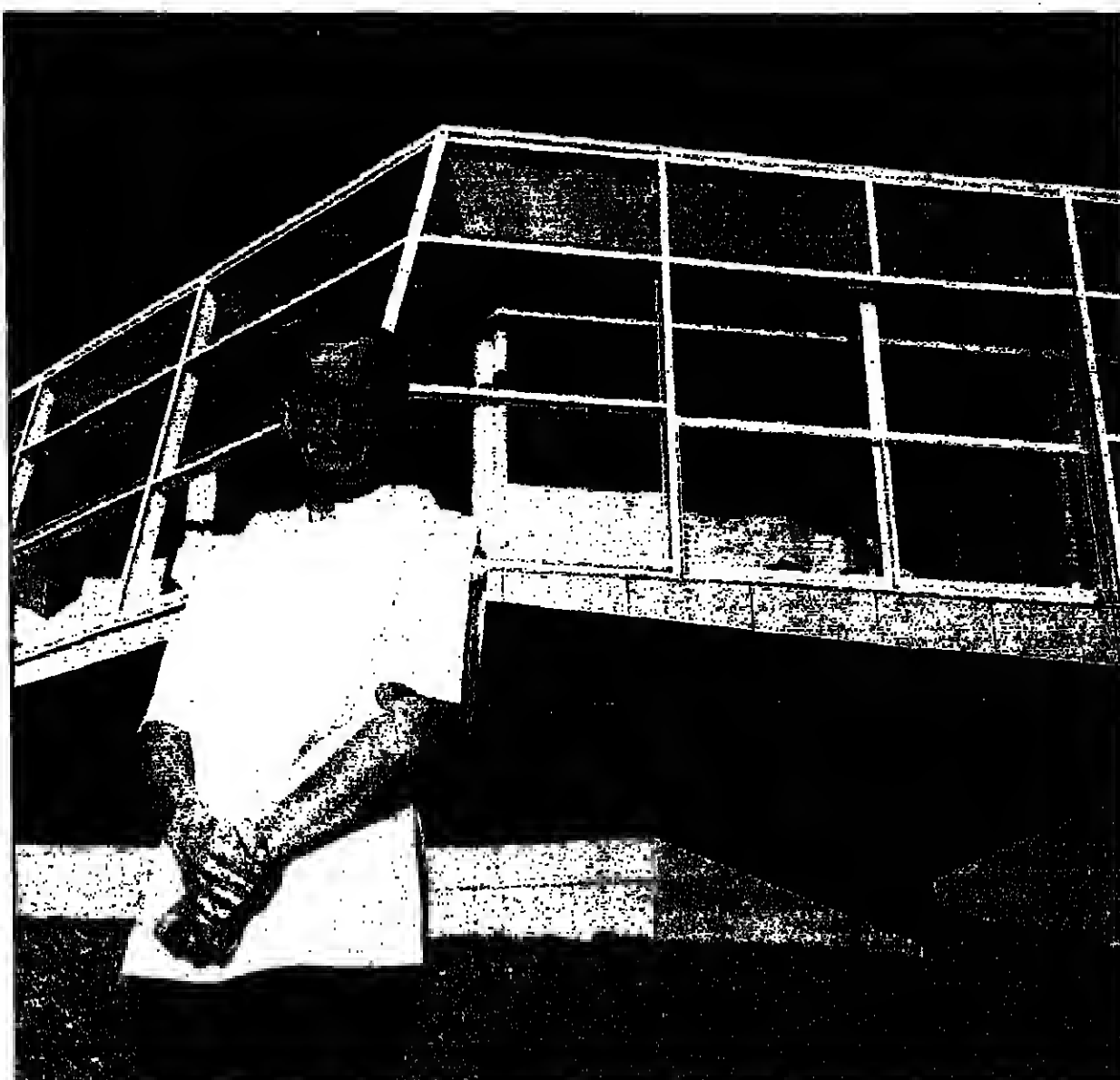
Respected and given to poetic utterances, Mr Bras is known, to his annoyance, as the “herbalist” of French cooking. His use of wild and unusual plants, such as meadow-sweet, started a

herbal trend among better-known, and more expensive, restaurants in the big cities.

“I run several times a week in the mountains and it is from these runs that I harvest ideas and emotions,” he said last week, when news of his probable ennoblement by Michelin leaked out. “That’s how I discovered meadow-sweet. I still clearly remember the circumstances of this encounter – the sky, the light and that leaden scent, heavy with honey.”

Mr Bras is best known for two dishes, “Biscuit de chocolat coulant” (Biscuit of melted chocolate) and “Gargouille de jeunes légumes” (which means, literally, a gurgling or bubbling of young vegetables). His restaurant maintains the informality of a country inn: customers are invited to clean their knife and fork on a piece of bread between courses.

Prices, although hardly cheap, are reasonable com-



Michel Bras, whose restaurant near Lagniole, south-western France, has joined the Michelin elite

pared with those of most two- or three-star restaurants. A lunchtime menu, eaten while enjoying panoramic views over the hills, costs £22. A dinner menu costs £55.

Mr Bras bemoans the cost of gastronomic meals in the swankier, Michelin-starred restaurants in large cities, which charge up to £150 a

head for their cheapest menu. By finding his inspiration in nature, Michel Bras says he hopes to express through his food “a climate, a freedom of expression, a sense of wonderment, a joie de vivre”. He compares his cooking to jazz “for its architecture... its fluid elegance, its silences”.

More prosaically, he says he learnt to love food at the kitchen table during his childhood. If he wasted a piece of bread, he would be rapped across the knuckles.

He joins 20 other three-star restaurants in France. No other chef was promoted to the premier division this year, but one, Marc Meneau, of the L'Esperance at Saint-Père-

sous-Vézelay was demoted to two stars. Britain has the same three, three-star restaurants as last year.

The main innovation of this year's guide, published tomorrow, is the inclusion of 50 Paris restaurants in the category of inexpensive but wholesome regional restaurants, marked by a small Michelin man.

AFP

At last, a good hairdresser

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE

SINCE LAST August's economic crash, some Russians have had the faith and courage to launch new businesses. It would be an exaggeration to say the spring of recovery has arrived. Rather, a few ventures are tentatively emerging like snowdrops pushing up from under snow.

Of two in the Samotechny Lane area, one is a new hairdressing salon. Before Alexander opened “Persona Lab”, we all used to go to Aunt Lyuda's. She may have been a wizard at dyeing the beehives of the local female trolley-bus drivers. But she always made a mess of my simple bob. Then I would go to some flashy haunt of the New Russians and pay \$100 (555) to have my hair “corrected”. Outrage at the price, however, would mean that next time I was back with the trolley-bus drivers, trusting my hair to the cheap and cheerful Lyuda.

Alexander now offers an exit from that vicious circle. Just before Christmas, he opened a salon giving the kind of cuts he learnt while studying in London, at prices that middle-class Russians, at least, can afford. He economised on decor – the walls are white – to concentrate on stylish cutting. “Everything was overblown before,” he said. “Who could afford those inflated prices?” Now he has a steady stream of clients, able to pay the equivalent of \$30, and is feeling optimistic.

Further down the road is Belinda. It used to be the biggest supermarket in the area and, frankly, was a bad joke. You had to be a masochist to shop there. The prices for the imported groceries were astronomical, yet the service was positively abusive.

When the rouble plunged, a funny thing happened. For two short weeks in September, Belinda, which still had stocks at old prices, became the cheapest shop in the area. Word spread quickly. Poor housewives flocked there to stock up on rice and macaroni

and try, perhaps for the first time, more exotic items such as pâté de foie gras. When the last goods were sold off, Belinda went out of business. Since then, a lot of renovation has been going on. Last week, Italian leather sofas went in. Then shelves with cheap mugs, washing powder and shampoo appeared. What was going on?

I walked in. A young assistant called Dima greeted me with a smile. In the back, I met Maria Belova, the equally welcoming manageress. “Down boy,” she commanded the black alsatian at her side. He was not a guard dog, she said, but a stray she had found injured and adopted. The atmosphere in the shop had certainly become friendlier.

What gave Ms Belova, who used to work in a Russian jewellery factory and also lived for a while in London, the confidence to open her own store after other entrepreneurs had been bitten? “We can't just sit and accept that our country is going down the drain. We have to try again.”

Ms Belova, smart in a black and white hound-tooth checked suit, said lessons had been learnt from the crisis: “Businesses should not try to make too much money too fast. They should deal with reliable partners. And they should be flexible.”

She went on to explain how she was creating a mini-department store, with a range of goods from expensive furniture to the cheapest household items. “We will watch and see what is popular. Later we might concentrate on one thing or another.” So far, customers are looking at the sofas as if they were museum pieces but they are snapping up the floral mugs at 60 roubles (£2) each. “International Women's Day is coming up on 8 March,” said Ms Belova. “For husbands wanting a change from the regulation three red tulips, the mugs make nice little presents for their wives.”

HELEN WOMACK

Kosovar villagers flee Yugoslav military

YUGOSLAV SOLDIERS and police appear to be clearing villages in Kosovo along the border with Macedonia of their Albanian inhabitants.

About 5,000 villagers, fearing military attack, have fled their homes in the past few days, seeking refuge across the border with friends and neighbours. Many, however, are camping outdoors within the

By EMMA DALY
in Gajre

borders of Kosovo. In one gully, women and children waited as their men cut down branches for temporary shelters.

The group of 300 had come from the village of Gajre, close to the main road leading south from the province's capital, Pristina, to Macedonia. They

were preparing to spend a second night in the snow. Back in the village, rebel fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) patrolled the streets, but few civilians remain. Ismet Calaku, who returned yesterday to find the body of his brother – presumably shot dead by Yugoslav forces attacking the village – said: “Where can we go? Do you think we are safe anywhere?”

Further north, near the village of Velika Hoca, international mediators succeeded in preventing a feared attack by the Serb security forces, after the murder of a Serb civilian. KLA members yesterday handed over the body of the Serb, who was taken hostage last week. They released his companion, who had been badly beaten. The exchange was negotiat-

ed by verifiers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Both Serbs were from Velika Hoca, a Serb enclave on a hill held by the KLA. The two were kidnapped after the seizure last week of three Albanians, two of whom were found dead yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who begins a three-day visit to Russia today, will at-

tempt to persuade Moscow to contribute troops to Kosovo – something seen as a crucial ingredient in securing acceptance by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, of a foreign peace-keeping force. But Mr Cook will have to overcome Russian hostility to the overall Nato command of the force demanded by alliance members, led by the US.

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مكتبة من الأدب

Sun Life may sell off GRE business

SUN LIFE and Provincial Holdings, which last month catapulted itself into third place in the UK general insurance league with the £3.4bn takeover of Guardian Royal Exchange, said yesterday that it is considering selling GRE's life business.

The operation contributed £435m of premium income last year and employs 1,200 staff. Sun Life, which yesterday posted its offer document to GRE shareholders, has also increased its estimate of annual savings likely to flow from the integration of the GRE businesses from £50m to £55m.

Mark Wood, Sun Life chief executive, said yesterday the group would not be integrating GRE's life activities with its existing life and pensions operations, and has instead placed the business in strategic review.

Sun Life - quoted in London but majority owned by AXA, the French insurance giant -

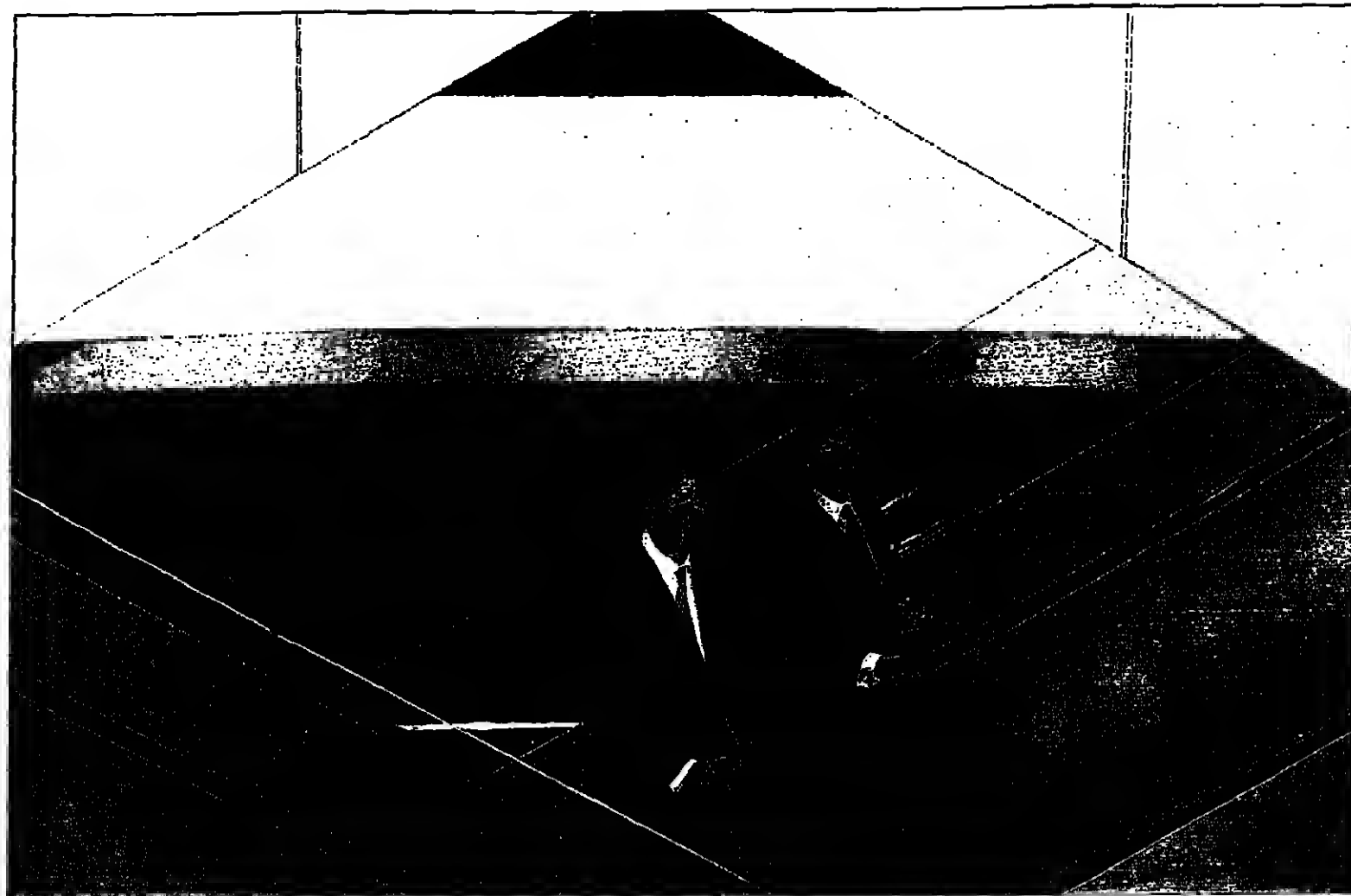
BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

pre-sold GRE's US and German businesses ahead of last month's agreed takeover to Liberty Mutual and AXA Colonia respectively.

Mr Wood said that, while a sale was currently not the most likely outcome, all options were being considered. It is hoped to complete the review in five months. He said: "We have had a chance to consider the options. But at the end of the review we will have a clear view as to how we hope to move forward."

The group is also reviewing its options for GRE's Irish business, which is the biggest general insurer in Ireland. Some observers said it was the most attractive part of the entire GRE operation. The Irish business has total annual premium income of £220m.

Mr Wood said the group



Chief executive Mark Wood (left) and chairman Lord Douro announced an 11 per cent fall in SL&P profits to £325.6m

Mark Chilvers

believed that by improving the underwriting performance in the GRE businesses to the levels achieved by Sun Life, the group would be able to improve returns and meet the demanding hurdle rates set by AXA. He said the GRE deal would boost earnings even if general insurance rates remained flat for the next two years.

"This is a turnaround story," he said. "What we believe the deal enables us to do is to achieve economies of scale and compete at ever decreasing levels of margins."

Sun Life has now completed

the integration of the Sun Life and AXA Equity & Law businesses following the 1997 merger. The group said yesterday that 90 per cent of the original objectives had been met and cost savings were now projected to be running at £47m a year - £10m more than planned.

Year's operating profits for the group as a whole were up by 14 per cent to £247.1m, with cost savings and a strong performance on the life and asset management sides making up for weaker general insurance; this suffered a £35m underwriting loss. The previous year has

been restated pro-forma as if Equity & Law had been included for the entire year.

Pre-tax, the group reported profits down from £363.5m to £325.6m, a fall of 11 per cent. The total dividend for the year is 13.5p a share, an increase of 15 per cent.

IN BRIEF

BoE's forum for hi-tech finance

THE BANK of England is to convene a new forum next month to discuss the financing of hi-tech companies. It will bring together institutional investors, venture capitalists and hi-tech businesses to discuss barriers to equity investment in the sector. Announcing the move last night, governor Eddie George said the Bank was also concerned about the stock underperformance of small quoted companies.

Sage buys Tetra

SAGE, the accounting software group, yesterday announced its third deal this year with the takeover of Tetra, the business software supplier for a mixture of shares and cash which values the company at £7m. Paul Walker, Sage's chief executive, said Tetra's products would help fill a gap in the company's mid-market range. Sage would also be able to offer better distribution for the products in France, Germany and the United States.

Morse price

MORSE, the reseller of computer servers, will price its shares at between 250p and 300p when it comes to the stock market later this month, valuing the company at between £36m and £36.7m. Morse is planning to sell 88.8 million shares, 24 million of which will raise new capital for the company, to be spent on expanding its international operations. The group yesterday confirmed it had bought a 34 per cent shareholding in Partner System, a French reseller, for £12.5m.

Liffeshall slump

LIFFESHALL slumped £18.1m into the red last year compared with a £3.9m profit before tax in 1997, following £17.2m losses on disposals as the company decided to sell off its retail products arm to focus on industrial services. The group, which last month warned it was in breach of banking covenants with Lloyds, has since agreed new debt terms with the bank, while GE Capital has agreed not to enforce its redemption rights over £3.3m of preference shares in the next year in return for regular payments as disposals are completed. Liffeshall shares fell 1p to 41.5p.

Correction

IN SATURDAY'S edition we published a picture of Peter Rawlins, who was described as chief executive at British Energy. The chief executive at British Energy is in fact Peter Hollins. The Independent apologises for any confusion caused.

Castrol to give back £280m

SHARES IN Burmah Castrol, the lubricants to chemicals group, surged 5 per cent yesterday when the group unveiled better-than-expected results and a £280m return of capital to shareholders.

The group will distribute the capital - £30m more than expected - in May by way of a share split yielding 131p a share. Ordinary shares will be split into new ordinary and capital shares, and the capital shares will be cancelled for cash or loan notes.

Tin Stevenson, chief executive, said: "We took the view last spring that we had an extraor-

BY ANDREW VERITY

dinarily strong balance sheet that from the shareholders' point of view was inefficient. The figure of £280m was the right figure given our ongoing acquisition plans."

Burmah, which makes and distributes fuels and specialist chemicals, was hit last year by the economic troubles of South-east Asia, the strength of sterling, and cost-cutting by the international oil majors.

But the company's results revealed that it had escaped the worst of the harm. While operating profits took a £35m hit from

the strength of sterling, profits rose by 1 per cent at constant exchange rates. Mr Stevenson said cost-cutting in Thailand and Malaysia had made up for falls in volumes.

"This demonstrates how resilient our businesses are, given that 1998 was a particularly difficult year in Asia-Pacific. And the results were a lot more robust than a lot of people thought they would be," he said.

The shares closed up 44p at 859p as the City welcomed the return of capital. The group is seeking permission to buy back further shares in the market later this year.

Full-year profits, down by 7 per cent at £245.9m, were also better than analysts expected, and the dividend will rise to 43p a share, up by 6 per cent.

Burmah Castrol, no longer classified as an oil business, has also embarked on a major restructuring programme. Instead of geographical divisions, the group has created four separate businesses for consumer, industrial, commercial and marine markets.

The group will spend £110m initially to achieve savings of £20m to £30m a year. It also plans to buy back shares in the market later this year.

Vehicle group allays debt fear

BY ANDREW VERITY

MAYFLOWER, the vehicle engineering group, yesterday provided relief to investors worried about its debt levels following its £278m hostile takeover of Dennis, the bus chassis maker. Mayflower, revealing first full-year results since the takeover, allayed concerns that it would find it difficult to manage the £281m debt taken on to make the cash offer.

Shares in Mayflower plummeted when it first announced the audacious bid - trumping an agreed offer from Henrys - because of the debt involved.

Yesterday the shares edged up a penny in a falling market to 155p as Mayflower unveiled a 26 per cent jump in turnover. Strong cash flow allowed the company to report interest cover of four times.

Full-year profits were up by 28 per cent to £42.6m, above analysts' predictions. Profits were boosted by a debut contribution from Dennis for two months of the year to December.

John Simpson, the chief executive, said: "We drove cash flow better than people expected. Our debt is down and analysts are now writing that we have a strong balance sheet."

Mayflower is stripping out some costs from the merger, closing Dennis's head office. But Mr Simpson said the main objective was to open up new markets. The combination of Dennis, a bus chassis maker, and Mayflower, which makes bodywork, would allow buses to be sold in one piece.

Most analysts upgraded their forecasts yesterday, citing better-than-expected finances and a string of new contracts in the US. "They've paid a very full price. But in the long run it looks like the acquisition may work for them," said one.

Scholey steps in at Close Brothers

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

SIR DAVID SCHOLEY, one of the City's most prominent merchant bankers, has agreed to step into the breach at Close Brothers after chairman Michael Morley asked to step down early because of illness.

Sir David was at one stage tipped to take over as governor of the Bank of England. As chairman of SG Warburg he negotiated its takeover by Swiss Bank Corporation in 1996. He will take over as non-executive chairman at Close at the annual meeting this autumn.

Rod Kent, chief executive, said yesterday that Mr Morley - one of five original members of the team that bought the bank out of Consolidated Gold Fields in 1979 - had planned to retire next year.

Mr Kent said: "We are very sorry Michael is leaving. But we have in Sir David someone of huge experience to draw on. He was enormously supportive of us in the early days. He personally gave a lot of encouragement. We are hoping that the wealth of experience he brings will help us grow Close Brothers."

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	YTD
Anglo Group (F)	4,130m(2,050m)	30.0m(45.6m)	4.0p(3.3p)	0.85p(0.7p)	01.07.98	07.05.98
Aggreko (F)	178.2m(163.3m)	39.2m(33.2m)	8.40p(8.15p)	4.12p(3.77p)	28.05.98	28.04.98
ATA Group (F)	2,690m(2,720m)	1,080m(1,000m)	12.12p(10.45p)	5.8p	01.04.99	01.03.99
Bellco (F)	310.0m(258.3m)	310.0m(258.3m)	7.6p(7.2p)	5.92p(5.6p)	16.04.98	16.03.98
British Polytechnic Ind. (F)	3 (25m(2.75m))	0.20m(0.36m)	1.64p(2.16p)	1.60p(1.9p)	28.06.98	28.05.98
Burmah Castrol (F)	470.25m(433.79m)	21.55m(23.24m)	38.19p(41.21p)	21.85p(21.1p)	14.05.98	14.04.98
Burmah Oil (F)	2,840m(2,940m)	235.0m(251.3m)	69.7p(68.0p)	43.0p(40.5p)	08.05.98	08.04.98
Caia (F)	44.07m(46.42m)	6.22m(6.93m)	8.00p(8.80p)	1.50p(1.45p)	09.04.98	09.03.98
Close Bros. Group (F)	33.22m(26.75m)	33.22m(26.75m)	18.35p(20.15p)	5.30p(4.80p)	18.04.98	18.03.98
Dennis (F)	637.75m(413.35m)	11.01m(8.60m)	26.5p(23.3p)	9.0p(7.5p)	30.04.98	29.03.98
Dominic & General (F)	49.80m(45.02m)	7.28m(6.05m)	14.35p(12.75p)	4.05p(3.5p)	08.05.98	08.04.98
English China Clay (F)	824.4m(845.3m)	64.4m(68.5m)	21.85p(21.75p)	5.55p(5.2p)	28.05.98	28.04.98
Equinox Group (F)	EUR427.6m(367.61m)	28.2m(26.75m)	149.7p(123.0p)	35.0p	31.03.99	08.03.99
Hays (F)	678.9m(734.5m)	110.1m(98.2m)	9.2p(7.4p)	2.0p(1.25p)	28.05.98	28.04.98
Hess (F)	34.55m(29.25m)	-3.27m(-4.33m)	-27.1p(-18.5p)	0		
Liffeshall (F)	94.88m(98.17m)	-18.51m(-17m)	-85.4p(-6.7p)	0		
London Fin & Invest. Grp. (F)	-	0.10m(0.17m)	0.51p(0.50p)	-		
Marmite (F)	253.94m(241.31m)	33.55m(4.47m)	15.70p(2.57p)	7.0p(3.3p)	01.07.98	07.05.98
Mayflower Corp. (F)	495.2m(282.7m)	42.6m(36.2m)	4.7p(3.6p)	3.30p(2.75p)	17.05.98	16.04.98
Medway (F)	248.4m(234.4m)	8.6m(15.2m)	2.95p(5p)	18.35p	18.05.98	18.04.98
Peaterson (F)	1.272m(863.67m)	16.6m(15.08m)	21.2p(21.2p)	12.0p(10.7p)	21.05.98	20.04.98
Rawdon Group (F)	181.1m(148.5m)	26.1m(23.2m)	8.6p(7.2p)	1.9p(1.35p)	21.05.98	20.04.98
Sherratt Ind. (F)	5.8m(5.8m)	5.8m(5.8m)	20.8p(22.8p)	8.0p(8.4p)	07.05.98	06.04.98
Sun Life & Pensions (F)	325.8m(363.3m)	27.0p(30.0p)	27.0p(30.0p)	13.5p(11.7p)	14.05.98	08.03.98
Tetra (F)	16.46m(13.21m)	1.62m(2.00m)	3.80p(4.52p)	-		
Typhoo (F)	245.0m(224.3m)	82.7m(84.0m)	45.4p(41.1p)	14.5p(13.2p)	07.05.98	06.04.98
Whitbread (F)	95.27m(82.27m)	16.04m(14.58m)	40.75p(38.11p)	17.1p	06.05.98	22.03.98

(F) - First. (F) - interim. *Second half results due in planned change of year

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Fawlty Towers Vol.1	ISBN 0563 225416	2Cassettes	£8.99	£6.99		
Fawlty Towers Vol.2	ISBN 0563 388374	2CDs	£11.99	£9.99		
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Line	Stock	Price	Chg	Vol	High	Low	YTD
425	Am Bank	100.5	+0.4	2.4	102.0	99.0	112.0
426	Am Bank	100.5	+0.4	2.4	102.0	99.0	112.0
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Rate worries bring Footsie down to earth

INTEREST RATE worries, one of the market's favourite bugbears, returned to haunt Footsie yesterday, dragging the index down from last week's heady heights.

Blue chips were hit hard by a classic interest rate double whammy, as dealers started the week fretting about monetary policy on both sides of the Atlantic.

Red numbers invaded the dealers' screens as a growing belief that the Bank of England will put an end to the rate cut bonanza of the last few months took hold.

That rate-on-hold feeling was given a further boost by a relatively benign manufacturing sector survey. Across the pond, the odds of a Federal Reserve tightening are shortening by the minute and the latest batch of economic data has given the bears plenty of ammunition.

Footsie was caught in the crossfire, tumbling 114.2 points to 5,060.9. The blue-chip index has now fallen back to the levels reached before last week's record-breaking rally.

OFEX-LISTED Po Na Na, an operator of African theme bars, rose 2p to 102.5p after it unveiled merger talks with the rival chain, Break for the Border, up 1.5p to 42p. Break for the Border will have to pay more than £20m to take control of Po Na Na, which owns 15 venues across the country. The African bars' company floated in 1996 and has a market value of £21m. It has talked to other quoted companies, which could enter the fray if the BfB talks collapse.

Banks and insurers, one of the drivers of the recent out-performance, led the retreat. Sellers were encouraged to book in profits by the end of the results season and the ex-dividend dates of a number of financial stocks.

Abbey National was an example of the ex-divi carnage, dropping 66p to 118p. Halifax followed suit, ending 32p lower at 735p. NatWest was also a prominent constituent of the ex-divi brigade, tumbling 42p to 250p. Royal Bank of Scotland was hit by profit taking and showed a 68p decline to 1,150 - the biggest Footsie faller of the day.

The Woolwich unravelled, losing 13.5p to 381.5p as Credit Lyonnais advised a switch to Northern Rock, down 3.5p to 485p. Among the insurers, Sun Life & Provincial rose 2p in early trade after good results before succumbing to the financials' bloodbath. The life insurer, currently buying GRE, finished 3p off at 486.5p.

GEC provided a glimpse of blue in Footsie's red sea. The £2.1bn buy of the US telecom operator Reltec was given the thumbs-up by the market and the stock rang up a 18p rise to 516p. More is still to come as GEC looks to spend the £7.7bn received from British Aerospace for its Marconi subsidiary.

Smiths Industries, the

MARKET REPORT

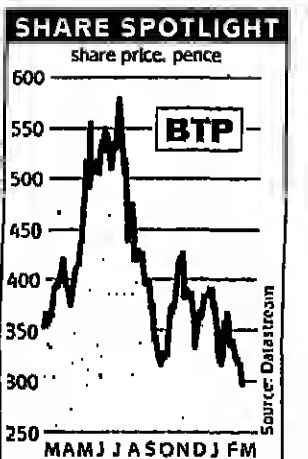


FRANCESCO GUERRERA

aerospace group, was another high-flyer, reaching a dizzy 26.5p advance to 973p as it draws up plans for a £120m acquisition spree.

The Footsie hopeful South African Breweries kicked off its London career with a 19p rise to 447p. Most of the early froth was wiped off in later trading as SG, among others, said sell. BT fell 17p to 1063p despite being tipped in a new Goldman Sachs portfolio, which also includes Unilever and the Swiss drug group Novartis.

Supermarkets were left on the shelves as rumours of an earnings-threatening price war grew louder. Asda, unchanged at 155.5p, is apparently preparing an assault on its rivals by slashing grocery prices. The campaign is tipped to hit Tesco, down 4.7p to 168.75p, and Sainsbury, 6p lower at 262.25p. J Sainsbury, up higher at 361.5p, and



Source: Datastream

Somerville, up 5.5p at 380p, are seen as more resilient. Marks & Spencer kept falling from grace and ended an undignified 82.5p lower at 411.25p. The retailer was on the receiving end of a 70-page "self" note by the broker WestLB. The title of the pamphlet "It's going to be painful" said it all.

No such doom and gloom among the undercard. The FTSE 250 got one over its bigger brother, rising 10.1 to 5,258.4, the Small Cap scraped 1.3 higher to 2,278.6.

Bid speculation and good results caused all the joy. First Choice, the tour operator, travelled 16p higher to 180p, after admitting an approach. The talk is of a bid at between 175p and 180p with the UK rivals Airtrics, up 18.5p to 495p and Thomson, which rose 11.5p to 180.5p, among the favourites.

The German giant Preussag, which has a stake in Thomas Cook, and the Swiss travel group Kuoni Reisen could provide the foreign opposition.

The Mirror bid potboiler was given new impetus. The red-topped paper's shares rose a headline-grabbing 9p to 203p, after it rejected a 210p share offer by Trinity. The bid put the heat on Regional Independent Media, the regional publisher, and the backer Candover to increase their 200p offer.

RMC built a 29.5p advance to 709p as JP Morgan said "buy". A bid for fellow building materials producer Alexander Russell, up 15p at 137.5p, is near. No bid bluff for Aggreko. The power hire group, once part of Christian Salvesen, surged 15p to 199p simply because it posted good results.

No such luck for BTP. The much-restructured chemicals group plunged 30p to a five-year low of 296.5p. The tumble put it on top of the mid-cap's list of failures as sellers stepped in ahead of the results season.

Some of its rivals fared little better, with Laporte down 18p to 547.5p and Yule Catto down 0.5p to 250.5p. The chemistry between the market and

MIXED NEWS for Chiroscience. The biotechnology company soared 8.5p to 234p on news that its anaesthetic Chirocaine is due to be approved by the US drug regulator. However, the product was dropped by Zeneca, the pharmaceutical giant, to appease the EU regulators that approved its merger with Astra. Chiroscience is on the look-out for a new partner and in the meantime Zeneca will pay for the development of the drug.

the sector is all wrong and at these bargain-basement levels bids are more than likely. Burmah Castrol was the notable exception, putting on 44p to 859p after promising a £280m return of cash to shareholders and reporting good profits.

BICC got out of its awful telecommunications cables business, with £133m in cash, but the shares, once in the Footsie, fell 5.5p to 84.5p.

Close Brothers, the blue-blooded bank, bled 32.5p to 632.5p despite good results and the appointment of former Warburg's supreme David Scholey as the new chairman.

Horace Small, a uniform-maker, was the market's best stock in the market, posting a 54 per cent advance to 79.5p after selling its operating business and becoming a cash shell ready for a reverse takeover.

Trio, the money broker, cashed in a 2p rise to 9.25p after Nittan Capital bought almost 30 per cent from Regent Pacific at 10.25p.

Computeraid crashed 58.5p to 100.5p after a profit warning, while Synstar, the computer services company, shed another 20p to 138.5p. It was floated on Friday at 165p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 867.2 million
SEAQ TRADES: 81,042
GLTS INDEX: 112.90 -0.74

Billiton down 34% as aluminium price falls

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

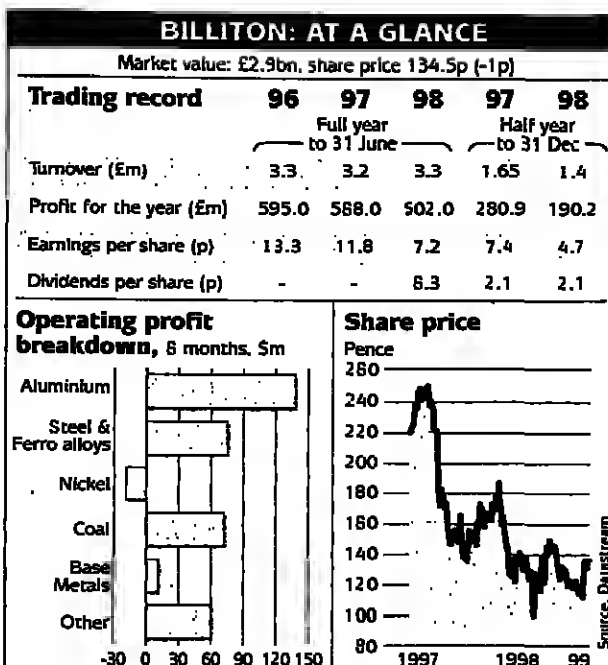
BILLITON, the mining group, reported a 34 per cent fall in first-half profits to £190m yesterday and warned that continued weakness in the aluminium price could affect the full-year figures.

Aluminium accounts for 41 per cent of Billiton's profits and the three month price has fallen to \$1180 per tonne, the lowest aluminium price ever in real terms. Average commodity prices in January are continuing to run below those of the same month last year, although Billiton feels prices may have bottomed out.

"It's very hard to see prices getting a lot weaker than they are today. But the situation probably isn't going to improve dramatically in the immediate future," said Brian Gilbertson, chairman and chief executive.

Billiton shares have been threatened with relegation from the FTSE100 index, with the newly-listed South African Breweries poised to gain entry. That would place further pressure on the share price.

But recent strength - the shares only dipped a penny to 134.5p on yesterday's figures - may have saved the group from expulsion from the Blue



chip index when the FTSE indices committee meets next week.

Billiton is seen by analysts as a less balanced exposure to the mining sector than rival Rio Tinto, which reported only a 10 per cent dip in profits last week. The company is less well understood in the City and is dominated by aluminium, coal and steel although the

group said yesterday that it could use its \$2bn war chest to become more diversified. It is looking at moving into iron ore, increasing its copper interests and adding to its coal operations.

It has already had a busy six months buying out minority shareholders in some of its interests and more buy-outs are on the agenda. Some \$1.5bn has

Freight slowdown buffets Ocean

By ANDREW VERITY

pick-up in volumes in the second half of the year," Mr Allan said.

Unlike rival freight companies - typically restricted to one part of the globe - Ocean has succeeded in marketing its services to 99 per cent of the world's economies, allowing it to give multinational a single point of call for freight services.

In spite of the worldwide slowdown, the company has been able to increase profits by taking advantage of a glut of air-line capacity offered by international carriers. Mr Allan has pursued a strategy of becoming one of the world's largest buyers of airline space, giving the company consider-



John Allan: Expects the second half to pick up FT

able buying muscle when it purchases space from airlines. With Asian airlines desperate to sell their capacity, this has allowed Ocean to bargain down

the price it pays for space and to boost profit margins, largely making up for the fall in total volumes.

The company, which completed a £103m cash return to shareholders in December, is also planning to spend £173m on acquisitions in Europe and the US.

Damian Brewer, an analyst with Paribas, the investment house, said: "We have Asia beginning to show the first signs of recovery and airlines are the first to gear up for that. So there is a lot of extra capacity which allows for bigger margins."

"There is still pressure on price in the short term. But in the long term there is strong potential for recovery making this a good long-term play," he said.

High-rise hero back home

DAN FRANK can boast that he supervised the construction of the tallest building in Europe - and then did the same with the tallest building in the world.

Mr Frank is a senior member of the Canary Wharf construction team, and is now heavily involved in the London Docklands development's latest phase of building. In the 1980s he helped oversee the building of One Canada Square, which when completed was Europe's tallest building (now it's only the tallest in the UK).

In 1992 Canary Wharf went into administration, emerging three years later. Mr Frank spent the 'quiet years' in Kuala Lumpur project-managing Petronas Towers, far and away the tallest building in the world.

Aboard at P&O

CONGRATS TO Baroness Hogg on her appointment to the

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



board of the Peninsular and Oriental Navigation Company (P&O) as a non-executive director. How fitting that she should join a company chaired by that arch-Tory, Lord Sterling. She is, of course, married to Douglas Hogg, John Major's favourite agriculture minister during the BSE crisis.

As plain Sarah Hogg she was the first business and City editor of this very organ. She then became head of the prime minister's policy unit from 1990 to 1995, the era of the Citizen's Charter, and was in part responsible for the Cones Hotline, when angry drivers could phone up and complain about too many cones on the road.

Her other main claim to fame is that she bought her husband Douglas the floppy hat

that he wore as a minister and which was much derided by the press.

She is also chairman of London Economics, the consultancy set up by John Kay, who went off last year to head up the Said Business School at Oxford University.

Baroness Hogg is the fourth new non-exec to be taken on by Lord Sterling over the past year. Two non-execs are standing down, Sir Peter Cazalet, a former deputy chairman of BP and John Steele, a retired civil servant who was once director-general of the transport directorate of the European Commission.

Meanwhile Lord Sterling, 63, goes on and on. "There is no fixed date for his retirement," a P&O spokesman says.

Tony says ta

VISITORS to the offices of Sherwood International, which supplies computer services to insurance companies, can see for themselves how highly esteemed the business is by New Labour.

Pinned to the noticeboard inside the offices at 120 Old Broad Street in the City is a recent letter from Tony Blair thanking Sherwood for its role in developing a "cow passport" programme.

The programme was needed to identify which cows had to be culled during the BSE crisis. Apparently the letter is chief executive officer George Matthews's pride and joy.

Trained boffins

THE VARIOUS eggheads, boffins and geeks who inhabit the life sciences industry are about to get a media makeover, if a new training consultancy has its way.

A firm called One Events

Life Sciences has launched a media training master class for the men and women in white coats. The two-day programme will include "the secrets of successful crisis management", which would no doubt appeal to employees of British Biotech. Then there's a case study on Dolly the Sheep, focusing on the strategic thinking behind the announcement.

Scots' lament

BUMP INTO any Scottish rugby fans, and they'll say that if Scotland had kicked the penalties against the Auld Enemy two weeks ago at Twickenham, they would have won. They'll probably add: "If only Gavin Hastings was still doing the kicking."

Mr Hastings now runs his own sports marketing company, Hastings International. Yesterday he joined Joslin Rowe Associates, a recruitment firm, as a non-executive director.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES			
Currency	Unit	Rate	Change
UK	1000	1.0000	
Australia	2.0100	2.0100	0.0000
Canada	1.0000	1.0000	0.0000
France	6.5596	6.5596	0.0000
Germany	1.9364	1.9364	0.0000
Italy	1.9364	1.9364	0.0000
Japan	107.09	107.09	0.0000
Netherlands	2.2037	2.2037	0.0000
New Zealand	1.2148	1.2148	0.0000
Portugal	20.480	20.480	0.0000
Spain	166.64	166.64	0.0000
Sweden	10.480	10.480	0.0000
Switzerland	1.4548	1.4548	0.0000
US	1.6112	1.6112	0.0000

INTEREST RATES			
Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate
UK Govt 5.00%	5.00%	UK Govt 3.15%	3.15%
UK Govt 2.50%	2.50%	UK Govt 1.00%	1.00%
UK Govt 1.00%	1.00%	UK Govt 0.50%	0.50%
UK Govt 0.50%	0.50%	UK Govt 0.25%	0.25%
UK Govt 0.25%	0.25%	UK Govt 0.10%	0.10%
UK Govt 0.10%	0.10%	UK Govt 0.05%	0.05%
UK Govt 0.05%	0.05%	UK Govt 0.02%	0.02%
UK Govt 0.02%	0.02%	UK Govt 0.01%	0.01%
UK Govt 0.01%	0.01%	UK Govt 0.00%	0.00%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES			
Contract	Price	Contract	Price
Long Gilt	115.71	Long Gilt	115.71
Short Gilt	115.71	Short Gilt	115.71
Long Euro	115.71	Long Euro	115.71
Short Euro	115.71	Short Euro	115.71
Long Yen	115.71	Long Yen	115.71
Short Yen	115.71	Short Yen	115.71
Long Dollar	115.71	Long Dollar	115.71
Short Dollar	115.71	Short Dollar	115.71
Long Pound	115.71	Long Pound	115.71
Short Pound	115.71	Short Pound	115.71

INDUSTRIAL METALS			
Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Aluminium	1158.5	Aluminium	1158.5
Copper	1008	Copper	1008
Lead	518	Lead	518
Nickel	4825	Nickel	4825
Tin	5380	Tin	5380
Zinc	1044	Zinc	1044

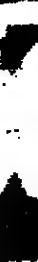
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SPORT

European Cup quarter-final: Manchester United face an Internazionale No 10 who still has a master's touch

Greatness has a last flowering in Baggio

AFTER 20 minutes of unrelenting pressure from their visitors on Saturday night, Internazionale finally let Juventus know that there were two sides on the San Siro pitch. And it was one man's doing.

Roberto Baggio, formerly the world's greatest player, had started the game by disappearing into the long shadow of Zinedine Zidane, currently the world's greatest player. The battle of the two No 10s had been going so badly for the little Italian that when he was called to take a sixth-minute free-kick outside the Juventus area, he couldn't even manage to lift it over Zidane, who was standing the regulation distance away - the most banal error imaginable. But eventually he did something to remind Zidane, and the rest of us, of why, five years ago, he was untouchable.

Collecting the ball near the left-hand touchline, midway inside the Juventus half, he advanced on Antonio Conte, the Turin team's all-purpose midfielder, and Alessandro Birindelli, the resolute right-back. Slowing to a stroll, he drew them towards him. A short ball inside seemed a good idea. Instead, with a swiftness of his hips and a double-shuffle, he had left both men sitting on their pants and was accelerating towards the penalty area. The crowd gasped with delight. Next came Ciro Ferrara, Juve's experienced libero, who advanced to meet the threat but was dismissed with a dip of the shoulder and a sudden dart. A third magpie fell to earth.

And then the gods cried enough, as Baggio's short ball into the goalmouth was smothered in a tangle of bodies. But it had been an unforgettable moment, a vivid cameo of greatness in its last flowering.

Baggio produced a few more pearls as Inter came back into the game in the second half, but he couldn't manage to break the stalemate in a scrappy game. A couple of beautiful passes to Nicola Ventola, the young substitute centre-forward, might have produced a goal, and Baggio himself was only centimetres away from connecting with a wonderful diagonal ball from another substitute, Andrea Pirlo, who will be his successor in the team. But justice was served on a team undeserving of more than a point.

In the midst of a frustrating season, with their team in sixth place in Serie A despite a series of effective performances in the Champions' League, Inter's supporters are taking some consolation from Baggio's efforts. The player, too, is enjoying a return to the spotlight after several unsatisfactory seasons. Bought from Bologna in the summer, he began the season as a deluxe-model substitute but forced his way into a permanent role with a series of influential late appearances, such as his performances in Austria, in the 2-0 win over Sturm Graz in the Champions' League, in the 3-1 home win over Real Madrid in the same competition, and most dramatically against Roma at the San Siro before Christmas, when he came on after 10 minutes of the second half with his side behind to the only goal



RICHARD WILLIAMS
IN MILAN

and orchestrated a 4-1 triumph, scoring two himself.

There was an immediate outcry to let him start the matches. The *Gazzetta dello Sport* assembled a panel of experts, including former Inter stars Alessandro Altobelli and Robert Boninsegna, who were unanimous in their belief that Baggio was too good to be used as a part-time genius. This presented Inter's new coach, Mircea Lucescu, with a dilemma which neatly resolved itself when Ronaldo's injuries allowed the team to take the field with a three-man front line - a *tridente* - comprising Baggio, Ivan Zamorano and Youri Djorkaeff. Not, it must be added, that the results in domestic competition have improved in consequence, particularly away from home, where poor team performances have cost them their chance of improving on their third and second positions in the last two seasons. Against Lazio in Rome 10 days ago, in the match that more or less decided whether Inter would be able to mount a challenge for the title, not even a final 15 minutes of furious effort and invention from Baggio could prevent a 1-0 home win for the leaders.

Baggio celebrated his 32nd birthday a couple of weeks ago, and there are noticeable physical differences between today's player and the Divine Ponytail of 10 years ago. The ponytail is gone, for a start, and the face has lost its innocence. The hips are wider, too, although still narrow enough to slide through the gap between Alessandro Birindelli and Antonio Conte. But the touch is still there, and the appreciation of movement around him. Even in a ropey game, a film of his performance on Saturday night, and Zidane's, could be used as a master class to show children how to shape the body in order to direct a pass at a difficult angle.

Yet it has been a curious career, in which the disappointments have loomed as large as the triumphs. The only Italian player to score goals in three World Cup finals, he will nevertheless be remembered for the one he missed - the decisive penalty in the shoot-out against Brazil in 1994, when he had dragged Arrigo Sacchi's nondescript team to the final by his own unstinting efforts, only to fall, drained by mental and physical exhaustion, at the final obstacle.

Long before that, there had been a sense that Roberto Baggio was a



Proven character: Roberto Baggio will not be found wanting in battle of 'temperament, conviction and a spirit of sacrifice'

man apart. He began his career with Vicenza, then in the third division, in 1982, but a move to Florence three years later, at the age of 18, was interrupted when he injured a knee in his final appearance before the transfer. A long convalescence delayed his Serie A debut for almost two years, but by the time he made his international debut in 1988 he was already the idol of Fiorentina, for whom he scored 55 goals in 130 games. There were tears from Baggio and riots from the Fiorentina fans

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Keane is set on shutting out Inter

BY GUY HODGSON

THE FRUSTRATING thing about Manchester United's dismissal from the European Cup last season was that they emerged from the first leg of their quarter-final with the assumption the job was half done. An away goal at Old Trafford pricked that balloon and they are anxious not to make the same mistake tomorrow.

A healthy victory over Internazionale is the preferred option but United will be careful not to let the Italians leave Manchester with a goal that might count double at San Siro in two weeks' time.

"A win is vital," Roy Keane, the United captain, said, "but we don't want to concede any goals. Italian teams are very good at coming to places and nicking that precious away goal. Then they go home and concentrate on finishing you off there."

"It's important we blank them out because we are capable of scoring against the best in the world. We've proved that in Europe this season."

Keane was an injured and uncomfortable spectator at the corresponding stage of the European Cup last season when United secured a 0-0 draw in Monaco but were felled by David Trézéguet's seventh-minute goal. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer managed an equaliser but United were unable to put their noses in front.

The feeling within the United camp is that they are stronger now and better equipped to cope in Europe. "We're not afraid of any team, anywhere," Keane added. "We know all the Inter players because most of them were in the World Cup. Like anybody they have strengths and weaknesses."

Keane played only 45 minutes against Southampton on Saturday, scoring United's opening goal in a 2-1 win and his presence will be highly valued by his manager, Alex Ferguson, who believed the Irishman's injury last season was the prime reason why United won nothing.

"We have to improve on our performance against Southampton," Keane said. "We said after that match that if we play like that on Wednesday we'll be on our way out of the Champions' League."

Like Keane, Ryan Giggs was also injured against Monaco and like his captain the Welsh winger was unequivocally upbeat yesterday, pointing to the £27.5m paid out in the summer for Jesper Blomqvist, Jaap Stam and Dwight Yorke as a reason why.

"The boss spent a lot of money but he has bought quality," Giggs said. "It's added to the strength of the whole squad, which we need when we are going for something like the European Cup. We're as well equipped as we can be to win it now. Last year when we had injuries we struggled, but not this time."

"There's a hunger at Manchester United and the European Cup is the competition that drives us on. It's a long time since the club won it last, so there is pressure. Just like when we hadn't won the League for so many years. But we won the League and we know that if we can beat Inter we've got a great chance in Europe this season."

United's chance tomorrow will be enhanced by a full squad to choose from. Stam, who missed the Southampton game, has recovered from a hamstring strain and the only slight doubt is Phil Neville, who injured a knee on Saturday.

Lack of rationality ruining the spectacle of rugby

TEN DAYS ago we had the spectacle of all four nations of the British Isles - or, as some now absurdly call them, the British and Irish Isles - playing international rugby in west London within three or four miles of one another.

Some fixture lists had announced beforehand that the Wales v Ireland fixture would be played at Wembley a week ago on Sunday, as was Wales v France last season. I had also thought that an attempt was to be made throughout the Five Nations' Championship to stagger matches, playing one on the Saturday, the other on the Sunday.

What happened to this fairly sensible proposal I do not know. Instead, on Saturday we are to have France v Wales in Paris starting at

2pm, and Ireland v England in Dublin starting at 4pm.

Last season France v England in Paris was shown only on Sky television. But the Irish rugby authorities are evidently less susceptible than the French to Rupert Murdoch's wiles, or more likely, Rupert Murdoch's money. Both matches will therefore be shown on BBC.

Though this may sound ungrateful, it is too much of a good thing: like eating an entire packet of chocolate biscuits, or spending a whole day at the Middlesex Sevens.

I have always believed that the normal attention span for most spectacles or entertainments is about an hour and a half. This is why plays are mostly too long, operas much too long and rugby or football matches about right. After 80 min-

utes or so of a rugby Test I want to put my feet up for half an hour and think about what I have seen without being confronted by the prospect of another Test match.

In a rational world, the Five (soon to be Six) Nations would be played on successive Saturdays and end sometime in April. That is why, earlier, I described the proposal for staggered matches as only fairly sensible. But when did the organisation of rugby football ever have anything to do with rationality? Both the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union, in different ways, contrive to make the Football Association look like Winston Churchill's war cabinet.

But for the stubbornness of the WRU, there could have been five Welsh clubs playing in the Allied



ALAN WATKINS

Dunbar Premiership before long. Not enough, said the WRU. In fact, the English were being unwontedly generous. On current form only four clubs are up to standard: Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli and Pontypridd.

There remains, however, a certain puzzle. Historically, Welsh rugby was based on the domination of the first three of these clubs. Newport were originally linked with them as a fourth. But the fortunes of the Monmouthshire club steadily declined. Cardiff and the two West Wales clubs were joined by one other: Bridgend in the 1960s, Pontypool in the 1970s, Neath in the 1980s and Pontypridd in the 1990s.

In other words, Welsh rugby was always based on a small number of clubs forever playing one another, sometimes four times a season.

The Anglo-Welsh fixtures were popular with English fans and Welsh exiles alike. But in the new confinement of the Welsh clubs behind Offa's Dyke, a great mythology has grown up around those matches.

The big Welsh clubs, at any rate, appeared to regard them less as serious business than as a branch of the light entertainment industry.

When Llanelli played Harlequins at Twickenham in September (for in those days the Quins would play their pre-Christmas matches at HQ rather than at The Stoop) several members of the visiting side usually seemed to have been picked up by the bus in Hendy to make up the numbers.

No, the change is that, with professionalism and the Premiership, the standard of English club rugby has become unrecognisable - even though it has been raised more by imported players than by the home-grown variety. It may be significant that, in the two internationals nine days ago, Ireland had nine players

from the Premiership, Scotland seven and Wales only three.

Unusually for my ticket for the England v Scotland match, a friend who lives near Twickenham had entered a raffle organised by the RFU in an attempt to buy off local residents for the inconvenience caused to them by international matches. He won a prize and was supplied with two tickets. He still had to pay for them, however - £32 each - and I duly reimbursed him for one.

A few months previously I had paid half that, to hear Alfred Brendel play Mozart and Schubert for slightly longer than the duration of a rugby match. Listening to Brendel playing the piano was more enjoyable and better value than watching England playing rugby.

Gyllene misses Cheltenham

FROM HERE on in punters do not really want to pick up the papers. They would close down the National Grid to cut off television and radios as well, because from this point there can be only bad news about horses and fancies for the Cheltenham Festival.

The trials, the main work, have been completed and now there is the dodging, trainers trying to sidestep the bacteria that can visit their stables, the stables that can be found by a galloping hoof. The ante-post vouchers are all clenched between crossed fingers.

A first notable absentee emerged yesterday when Lord Gyllene, the winner of the postponed 1997 Grand National, was reported to have met with a setback and will not now be among the players who congregate to entertain us at the foot of Cleve Hill.

Lord Gyllene would probably not have won at the Festival, but his presence would certainly have enhanced the occasion. Few horses have ever made the Aintree fences look so insignificant, but the 11-year-old will now recuperate rather than participate as he attempts to win back his crown.

"During routine work over the weekend Lord Gyllene pulled a muscle behind the saddle and so will only be walking for the next 10 days," Steve Brookshaw, the gelding's trainer, said yesterday. "Therefore he will not be going to Cheltenham. We noticed it after he had worked and the vet said we shouldn't have anyone on his back for the next 10 days. We will look for another race before the Grand National, possibly over hurdles."

The injury to Earthmover is seriously damaged pride following his pale effort behind Young Kenny in the Greenalls

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

Grand National Trial at Haydock on Saturday. The eight-year-old comfortably beat off the challenge of one of his co-favourites, Island Chief, but that was the only one of the 11 finishers behind him. That was not good enough from last season's Foxhunters' Chase winner who went into the contest as a wild card for the Gold Cup itself. The Blue Riband is beginning to look a forlorn objective.

Paul Nicholls may have perversely been anticipating some sort of physical affliction to explain Earthmover's effort in Lancashire, but the horse has been in hearty form since the weekend. While a stable lass has been liberating the gelding from behind a door, Nicholls has

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Eskleybrook
NB: Northern Saddler (Leicester 4.50)

been affecting a similar action with the drawing board. "He's fine after Saturday," the Ditcher trainer reported yesterday. "We don't know what we are going to do with him yet, but he would appreciate better ground. I will sort it out with the owner and discuss what to do, at the moment plans are fluid."

The Champion Hurdle, likely to go ahead without any input from Deep Water, a convincing winner of the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle at Liverpool last year. Micky Hammonds' runner is more likely to show his mettle in the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr next month. "I just felt that to have gone to Cheltenham the yard would have to be bringing but we have not had the right preparation and there is always next



Emerald Statement (Barry Fenton) leads on his way to victory at Plumpton yesterday. Julian Herbert/Allsport

year," the trainer said. "I think he will take his chance in the Scottish Champion Hurdle and he won't necessarily have a race before. He won first time out last season and is not a difficult horse to get ready."

Lord Lamb, Mary Reveley's talented hurdler, will next be seen on Merseyside, though he will take the oblique route of a spin on the Flat before he goes to Aintree. The grey had originally been steered towards easy pickings at Keiso on Friday, but the agenda has changed after his unexpected defeat on heavy ground at New-

castle recently. "He's just been turned away, but he's nearly ready to start cantering again," Reveley said. "He'll have his next run on the Flat at Doncaster and then he'll go back over hurdles at Liverpool."

The charms of the borders have also persuaded the connections of Crazy Horse to forsake the Festival in favour of the Scottish chase. "He's entered at Cheltenham [in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle] but it's a big race on Friday [the Hennessy Cognac Series Final] and the plan is to go there," Len Lango, the trainer, said.

LEICESTER

2.20 Eskleybrook 3.50 Samuel Wilderspin
2.50 Liver Bird (nb) 4.20 Strong Vision
3.20 Peveril Pendragon 4.50 NORTHERN SADDLER (nap)

GOING: Soft (heavy patch by the writing post).
At right-hand, undulating course. Run of 250 yds.
Course is an SE of only off AG, Leicester station (London, St Pancras - Sheffield line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club £3; Terraces £2; Club car Park £20 adults car and four occupants. Free racecards. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M J Phipps 11-30 (22%), N Henderson 11-35 (21%), M J Phipps 11-30 (22%), N Henderson 11-35 (21%), M J Phipps 11-30 (22%), N Henderson 11-35 (21%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: A J McEvoy 15-50 (28%), M J Phipps 15-50 (28%), A J McEvoy 15-50 (28%), M J Phipps 15-50 (28%).
FAVOURITES: 2.20-287 (53%), 2.50-287 (53%), 3.20-287 (53%).
LONG DISTANCE TRAINERS: Chief Chippie (230) and Copperheart (232) have been sent 204 miles.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.20 PICKWELL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,496

1. 4295 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2. 4296 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
3. 4297 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
4. 4298 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
5. 4299 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
6. 4300 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
7. 4301 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
8. 4302 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
9. 4303 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
10. 4304 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)

Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: 10st 12lb, Western Day 11lb, Cheltenham 12lb.
SETTING: 2.20-287 (53%), 2.50-287 (53%), 3.20-287 (53%).
1st: 4295 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2nd: 4296 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
3rd: 4297 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
4th: 4298 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
5th: 4299 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
6th: 4300 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
7th: 4301 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
8th: 4302 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
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FORM GUIDE
Reflex Country: Has shown promise in novice chases despite jumping problems. Looked to be struggling in 4th place when brought down at Sedgemoor (2nd) last time.

Catherine's Way: Won similar event at Hurdington (2m, good to soft) in December. Disappointing 4th time (2m, good to soft) next time and step up in trip may help.

Stellar Gate: Moderate novice chaser. Raced by her 2nd to Plumpton at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) last time. Unable to stay the trip on the 2nd of the latter ground.

Belvedere: Novice handicap chaser. First outing since May 1997 and first since leaving John O'Shea. Not highly rated on chasing debut, but likely to need the run.

Orlando: Unlikely to stay the trip on the 2nd of the latter ground. Lost touch after the 4th to Boulevard Bay (2m, good to soft) on 3rd run over fences last month.

Fighting Tessa: Made all to win at Newbury (2m, heavy) last month. Scored on 4th to Hurdington (2m, good to soft) next time and best watched until showing more sparkle.

Esleybrook: Failed to stay 3m when pulled up on first run for new year. Best of 43/1 lengths when sent to Legal Right at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) in January, but chance in weak race.

The Hatcher: First outing since May when 6th (2m, good to soft) to Oriental Bay at Newbury (2m, soft) in November. Long layoff likely to find him out on the ground.

Credo Bay: Stayed by the ground, but one-paced. Probably better with a least of stamina and had every chance 3rd out when 4th length 2nd to Total Joy at Plumpton (2m, heavy) in January.

Western Bay: Winning pointer on good to firm. Promising chasing debut when 4th to Ralph at Hurdington (2m, good to firm) in December and going as against him.

Chief Chippie: Poor novice hurdler. One run over fences the season when 3rd of 4 finishers (2m, good to soft) to The Snow Don at Hurdington (2m, heavy) in November.

VERDICT: Most of these looked doomed to still be maidens at the end of the season and the disappointing Reflex Country will go down if jumping better. Catherine's Way ran on soft and was a chance as when was BELVEDERE.

Pulled up on first outing for Hurdington-Chippie over three miles at Hurdington last month, the stonier bay will be more in his favour and he is on a long mark on his first run in a handicap.

2.50 DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £3,980

1. 4305 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2. 4306 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
3. 4307 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
4. 4308 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
5. 4309 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
6. 4310 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
7. 4311 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
8. 4312 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
9. 4313 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
10. 4314 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)

Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: 10st 12lb, Western Day 11lb, Cheltenham 12lb.
SETTING: 2.50-287 (53%), 3.20-287 (53%).
1st: 4305 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2nd: 4306 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
3rd: 4307 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
4th: 4308 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
5th: 4309 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
6th: 4310 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
7th: 4311 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
8th: 4312 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
9th: 4313 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
10th: 4314 LIVER BIRD (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)

FORM GUIDE
Liver Bird: Winning hurdler in Ireland. Aged on soft ground (won twice on heavy) and scored at this level when successful in 2m handicap chases at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) in January and at Hurdington (2m, good to soft) in December.

Regal: Won 2m handicap chases at Hurdington (2m, good to soft) in December and at Hurdington (2m, good to soft) in January. Looked to be struggling in 4th place when brought down at Sedgemoor (2nd) last time.

Stellar Gate: Moderate novice chaser. Raced by her 2nd to Plumpton at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) last time. Unable to stay the trip on the 2nd of the latter ground.

Belvedere: Novice handicap chaser. First outing since May 1997 and first since leaving John O'Shea. Not highly rated on chasing debut, but likely to need the run.

Orlando: Unlikely to stay the trip on the 2nd of the latter ground. Lost touch after the 4th to Boulevard Bay (2m, good to soft) on 3rd run over fences last month.

Fighting Tessa: Made all to win at Newbury (2m, heavy) last month. Scored on 4th to Hurdington (2m, good to soft) next time and best watched until showing more sparkle.

Esleybrook: Failed to stay 3m when pulled up on first run for new year. Best of 43/1 lengths when sent to Legal Right at Ludlow (2m, good to soft) in January, but chance in weak race.

The Hatcher: First outing since May when 6th (2m, good to soft) to Oriental Bay at Newbury (2m, soft) in November. Long layoff likely to find him out on the ground.

Credo Bay: Stayed by the ground, but one-paced. Probably better with a least of stamina and had every chance 3rd out when 4th length 2nd to Total Joy at Plumpton (2m, heavy) in January.

Western Bay: Winning pointer on good to firm. Promising chasing debut when 4th to Ralph at Hurdington (2m, good to firm) in December and going as against him.

Chief Chippie: Poor novice hurdler. One run over fences the season when 3rd of 4 finishers (2m, good to soft) to The Snow Don at Hurdington (2m, heavy) in November.

VERDICT: Most of these looked doomed to still be maidens at the end of the season and the disappointing Reflex Country will go down if jumping better. Catherine's Way ran on soft and was a chance as when was BELVEDERE.

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4.20 GREAT GLEN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,496

1. 4315 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2. 4316 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
3. 4317 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
4. 4318 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
5. 4319 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
6. 4320 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
7. 4321 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
8. 4322 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
9. 4323 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
10. 4324 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)

Minimum weight: 10st. Two handicap weights: 10st 12lb, Western Day 11lb, Cheltenham 12lb.
SETTING: 4.20-287 (53%), 4.50-287 (53%).
1st: 4315 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
2nd: 4316 REFLEX COUNTRY (14) (M J Phipps) 11-30 (22%)
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ANTE-POST UPDATE

SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (2m 110yds)											
	C	H	L	S	T		C	H	L	S	T
2-11 JOE MAC Head Hurdle (2m 110yds)	41	14	14	72	100	31					
1-12 CARDINAL HILL Hurdle (2m 110yds)	72	72	52	41	31						
11 HORS LA LOI Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	71	61	61	61	61					
1 THE FLY Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	61	61	61	61					
1 QUEL SENON F Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	61	61	61	61					

Eachway 6 places 10 odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Chatterbox, Ready 10 Mares)

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 16 March)

ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (2m)											
	C	H	L	S	T		C	H	L	S	T
2-11 HERSHOM Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	112	41						
2-11 HERSHOM Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	112	41						
2-11 HERSHOM Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	112	41						
2-11 HERSHOM Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	112	41						
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2-11 HERSHOM Hurdle (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	112	41						
2-11											

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 16 March)

CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yds)											
	C	H	L	S	T		C	H	L	S	T
101 HERSHOM HURDLE (2m 110yds)	61	61	41	61	61						
102 FRENCH HOLLY F Murphy 2m 110yds	61	71	73	61	61						
HAPPY CHANCE Miss Vanya Wilkins 2m 110yds											
103	251	251	251	251	251						
104 GREY SHOT 1 Bading 2m 110yds	251	251	251	201	251						
144 BLOWING WIND M 2m 110yds 2m 110yds	251	251	251	201	251						
Exclusively a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 16 March)											

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Cheltenham, Tuesday 16 March)

	C	H	L	S
2-10 STEP ON BYE Hurdle Hcp	61	71	71	61
10 ISLAND CHIEF P Bazaar Hcp	101	101	101	121
1311 YOUNG KENNY P Bazaar Hcp	61	121	101	61
1411 DR LEMMY P Hcp Hcp	101	101	101	101
3-11 CLEVER REMARK J Cld Hcp	201	101	101	101

Each-way in quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 & 4 (Chatterbox, Tuesday 16 March)

ROYAL & SUNNYSIDE NOVICE HURDLE (2m 50)

Ten centres will dip into Lottery cash

THE LONG-HERALDED British Academy of Sport took its final shape yesterday - as the British Academies of Sport. Although Sheffield is nominal HQ of the 10 regional centres announced by the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith, the network of facilities proposed will operate on an egalitarian basis, accessing £160m of Lottery-based funding set aside for the project.

The State Secretary denied the charge that, 14 months after deciding to site the UK Sports Institute in Sheffield, the Government and national sporting bodies had come up with a body with no head. Sheffield, he said, would have a central function in the network, providing "quality control" for the whole operation and specialising in sports science, medicine, research and administration.

It will also have a wide range of top-class sporting facilities, but in this respect it will be no different to the other named regional sites: Gateshead, Manchester, Holme Pierrepont near Nottingham, Loughborough University, Bedford, Bisham Abbey, Crystal Palace, Bath University and Southampton University.

The official guiding principle in all this is "taking service to the athletes, not the other way round". In short, the exact opposite of John Major's original vision of a brand new, super-

SPORTS FUNDING

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

duper centre on the lines of the Australian Sports Institute in Canberra.

Smith rejected the idea that the new structure had been taken in another direction by the Labour Government for political reasons. "This is sport driven, not politics driven," he said. "We have spent a lot of time talking to the governing bodies of sport in this country and asking them exactly what they want. But I think John Major did a very great service by introducing the idea in the first place and ensuring that Lottery funding was flowing into the sport to enable this to happen. I believe this new network will be a real benefit to our athletes so they can go out and beat the world."

The World Class Performance programme, the elite end of national Lottery funding for British competitors, is geared to getting Britain into the top 10 of the medals table at the 2004 Athens Olympics, which is likely to require at least seven gold medals. The relative failure of Britain's performance at the 1996 Olympics - where only Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent won gold and the country finished 36th in the medals table - added impetus to Major's project, and this new set-up, coupled with

substantial Lottery funding for individual athletes, appears to be creating the ideal conditions for success.

Among those endorsing the new initiatives yesterday were the European 100 metres champion Darren Campbell and David Tanner, performance director for British rowing. "We wouldn't have been able to come on a trip like this before Lottery funding," Tanner said. "It has made an absolutely fantastic difference. And the new structure will make it all sustainable. We still need more facilities, but the will is there, and at last we have the money to do it."

Smith confirmed that the Government was committed to funding the new network of centres for at least 8 to 10 years, which means that the selected sites, many of which have been chosen because they already have substantial facilities already, will be able to push on with their plans to upgrade and improve what they have.

The centre at Bath University will now submit plans for an indoor running track and multi-purpose sports hall, along with new synthetic pitches and tennis courts.

Steve Baddeley, chief executive of the Badminton Association of England, spoke for many organisations with his reaction to the announcement. "There's a sense of relief," he said. "This is long overdue."



South Africa's Daryll Cullinan leaves the field at Eden Park after hitting his record unbeaten 275 runs

Cullinan reaches milestone

DARYLL CULLINAN became South Africa's highest individual Test score with an unbeaten 275 out of South Africa's total of 621-5 declared on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at Eden Park yesterday.

Worthy though his achievement was, the home side's batsmen confirmed the lifelessness of the pitch by reaching 205 for 2 by the close of play.

Cullinan passed the 274 scored by Graeme Pollock against Australia at Kingsmead in 1989-90 with a scurried second run off Craig McMillan's medium pace, at which point the captain, Hansie Cronje, declared.

South Africa 621-5 dec
New Zealand 205-2

The stylish right-hander, 32 next week, also batted longer than any other South African, staying in for 10 hours 59 minutes, nine minutes longer than Gary Kirsten required to score his 210 against England at Old Trafford last year.

Cullinan's innings spanned 490 deliveries and contained 27 fours and two sixes. His two records supplement two other national records he holds. He became the youngest first-class century-maker in South Africa

at the age of 16 years 304 days and then made their highest first-class score, 337, in 1995.

Just two wickets fell all day. Roger Twose being caught behind by Mark Boucher off the bowling of Allan Donald after contributing 31 to an opening stand of 80 and Nathan Astle falling in identical style after scoring a breezy 41, which included lifting spinner Paul Adams for two sixes in an over.

The pitch, which was covered with wood glue before the match got under way to stop it breaking up, seems unlikely to deteriorate. If anything it is becoming easier for the batsmen and Horne capitalised to

finish unbeaten, and untroubled, on 92 from 219 balls.

Third day, New Zealand won Test SOUTH AFRICA - First innings (overnight 562-5)
D J Cullinan not out... 275
S M Pollock not out... 68
R Taylor (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
Total (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
New Zealand 205-2
D J Cullinan not out... 275
S M Pollock not out... 68
R Taylor (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
Total (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21

Illness stifles young tourists

England Under-19 202
New Zealand Under-19 205-1
NZ Under-19 win by six wickets

THE ENGLAND Under-19 side, heavily weakened by a bout of food poisoning, fell to a six-wicket defeat in the third one-day international against New Zealand Under-19s in Hamilton yesterday and lost the series 2-1.

The defeat brings to an end a disappointing tour in which the Test series was drawn after England were 1-0 up and the one-day series lost after the tourists were again in the lead.

Both teams and local officials were affected by sickness, with New Zealand missing their opener, Tim McIntosh, and having three other players take part in the match despite illness.

England lost three players - batsman Ian Bell, all-rounder Giles Haywood and pace bowler Matt Whiles. In addition, the seamer Matt Bullock was unable to take the field at all during the New Zealand innings after making 33 not out.

Although there was no certainty about the origin of the illness, which first surfaced in the England camp late on Sunday afternoon, the New Zealand coach, Dayle Hadley, believed that it came from food served to players and officials at the Westpac Trust ground on Saturday during the second one-day international. He made a formal complaint to the Northern Districts Cricket Association and has asked for the local health authority to investigate the catering facilities.

THIRD DAY, NEW ZEALAND WON TEST SOUTH AFRICA - First innings (overnight 562-5)
D J Cullinan not out... 275
S M Pollock not out... 68
R Taylor (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
Total (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
New Zealand 205-2
D J Cullinan not out... 275
S M Pollock not out... 68
R Taylor (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21
Total (56 runs, 200-1 over)... 21

CATTERICK

HYPERION

2.00 Allmerton 2.30 Canmore Fantasy 3.00

Jessella 3.30 Tifal 4.00 I'm The Man 4.30

Minster Glory 5.00 Ireland's Eye

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places)

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.

Course is NW of town on A166. Dabbling station 140 - bus

to course. ADMITTANCE: Club 25p, Terraces 10p. Club

C250 (under 16s free into enclosure). CAR PARK: Reserved

area 12, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

Leading Trainers: Mrs M. R. W. 29-29 (22%), M. R. W. 29-29

15-17 (10%), Mrs S. Smith 14-11 (26%), T. Easterby 13-10

(24%).

Leading Jockeys: P. Niven 27-37 (22%), R. Gurney 17-33

(20%), A. S. Smith 14-10 (37%), B. Storey 10-10 (31%).

FAVOURITES: 35-35 (55%).

BUNGLED FIRST TIME: Allmerton (winded, 200), All Out

Steeplechase (200), Leicester Lane (330), Prince of Salina (430).

2.00 WENSLEY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE

(F) £3,000 added fillies & mares 2m

1. 4-23 MY DESPERADO (10) (20) (R) Lloy-James 6 10

2. 0-44 SUPREME TARGET (7) (7) J. Dutton 7 10

3. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

4. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

5. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

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45. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

2.30 HARROGATE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

1. 30-21 0-00 (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

2. 0-44 SUPREME TARGET (7) (7) J. Dutton 7 10

3. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

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66. 4-35 PRINCE OF SALINA (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

3.30 RYON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 3f

1. 0-0000 CLAREMONT (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

2. 0-0000 CLAREMONT (10) (10) J. Dutton 7 10

3. 0-0000 CLAREMONT (1

SPORT

THE PEARL OF INTER P21 • BRITAIN'S DOUBLES DREAM TEAM P24

England wait on 'infirm four'

Cork in deal to stay at Derby

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE

ENGLAND UNVEILED their World Cup squad at Lord's yesterday, before revealing that four of the players chosen - Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin - have two weeks to pass a series of fitness tests. In contrast, Australia, one of the tournament favourites, have left out two of their fittest players, Greg Blewett and Michael Slater, who are playing some of the best cricket of their careers.

Apart from the haste with which the "infirm four" have to prove their fitness, there were few surprises, and 10 of those involved in the recent one-day series in Australia were included. Inevitably, with such a prestigious event as the World Cup, there were disappointments as well, and Nasser Hussain, one of England's leading scorers in that series, was left out.

It was, according to the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, one of several tough decisions in shaping a squad that apparently took until Sunday to ratify.

If many will see Hussain's absence as a glaring omission, the presence of the 21-year-old Andrew Flintoff was a positive factor. Having lost a good deal of weight at the end of the season, Flintoff caught the selector's eye just at the right time and his explosive batting performances on the A tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa have roused interest.

One thing irks, however, and considering that the four under review - Fairbrother (recurring hamstring trouble), Austin (recent knee operation), Thorpe and Atherton (both dodgy backs) - are the selectors' first choice, the insistence on a 15 March deadline appears ungenerous. The tournament in Sharjah in early April may be a good place to make final preparations, but the conditions are so different as to make the drawing of any worthwhile conclusions minimal.

According to Graveney, the stringent deadline is to avoid the issue being fudged further down the line. "They will be tested by Wayne Morton, the England physio, over a period of days. If there are any doubts they won't be included," he said. But while one can see his point, that they have until 2 May to make any final changes, as well as the right to replace a player at any time, makes the haste seem indecent.

For Atherton, the period may prove insufficient anyway. This



At Lord's yesterday David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, reveals the names of the 15 England players who hope to lift cricket's World Cup trophy in June

week he undergoes work on a troublesome facet joint in his lower back. According to Morton, the severity of Atherton's symptoms outweigh the pathology that causes them: that is, a small problem is causing a large amount of inconvenience, which is what forced him to miss the final Test in Sydney. The process, which involves nothing more intrusive than an injection, blocks off the pain signals transmitted by the nerve which causes the back muscles to go into protective spasm. This, apparently, is a different problem to the chronic spondylitis he has somehow coped with most of his career.

If it sounds gruesome, Atherton is hopeful that it will bring an end to the myriad

of cortisone jabs he has received in recent times. Even so, expecting Atherton to gambol around like a spring lamb in a fortnight's time - remember, run-saving in the field will be just as important as run-scoring with the bat - may be asking a bit too much of him.

By his own admission, Atherton, who has played just a single one-day international in the past year, feels he is in the squad as an option rather than a certainty. This is not the case with either Thorpe or Fairbrother, both of whom would be first choice to occupy the middle-order. Indeed, a thumbs-up from Atherton for the first game on 15 May would significantly improve England's chances of making the final.

As hosts, England will have great hopes of winning the trophy for the first time. The biggest obstacle, though, will be getting past their group stage, which includes India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Kenya, from which three teams qualify.

However, the early season conditions - the first match, England v Sri Lanka, is at Lord's on 14 May - should favour Alec Stewart's side, which is probably why the selectors have included Angus Fraser as well as gambling on the likes of Atherton and Austin, who both have exceptional one-day records in England.

The announcement of a 15-man squad comes a month

early - 31 March is the deadline for final squads, which is why other countries have named 19 players in their selections.

With no more cricket before the cut-off date, the selectors felt that further prevarication was futile. In two weeks' time we should know.

AUSTRALIA Preliminary World Cup squads: S R Waugh (capt), S K Warne, M G Bevan, A C Dile, D W Fleming, A C Gilchrist, J M Gillespie, I J Harvey, S P Julian, S G Law, S Lee, S O Lehmann, S C MacGill, G O McGrath, D R Martyn, R T Ponting, P R Reifel, M E Waugh, D E Young.

SOUTH AFRICA Preliminary World Cup squads: W J Cronje (capt), S M Pollock, G Rozen, H H Rodes, J H Kallis, D J Gagne, J N Rouse, L Kruuger, N Bond, M V Boucher, A A Donald, A C Dawson, S Elwyt, D M Benkenstein, D N Crookes, P L Symcox, N Potgieter, P R Adams, M Ntini.

Cullinan's record, Under-19s' sick day, page 23

ENGLAND SQUAD AVERAGES

BATTING: ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

	MI	NO	Runs	HS	100	50	Ave
N H Fairbrother (Lancs)	66	64	1718	113	1	15	40.20
N W Kidge (Nottingham)	40	40	1498	125	3	11	40.45
G P Thorpe (Surrey)	44	44	1482	89	0	14	40.05
G A Hick (Worce)	87	86	2990	126	5	19	38.23
M A Atherton (Lancs)	56	56	1791	127	2	12	35.11
A J Stewart (Surrey, capt)	116	111	3211	116	2	18	31.17
V J Wells (Leics)	17	5	131	39	0	0	26.20
I O Austin (Lancs)	3	1	28	11	0	0	14.50
M A Ballham (Surrey)	30	22	1	380	45	0	18.09
R D B Croft (Gloucestershire)	40	28	11	274	32	0	16.11
A J Hales (Surrey)	31	6	573	33	0	3	24.04
A R C Fraser (Middlesex)	37	16	7	122	38	0	13.55
D Gough (Worcestershire)	56	37	13	272	45	0	11.33
A D Mitchell (Leics)	22	9	2	62	20	0	6.00

A Flintoff (Lancs) has yet to make one-day debut

BOWLING: ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

	Overs	Runs	Wkts	SW	10W	BS	Ave
V J Wells	32.4	3	153	5	0	0	13.12
D Gough	51.2	43	220	89	2	5	24.45
A D Mitchell	19.3	21	72	25	0	0	27.57
A J Hales	17.2	4	89	31	0	0	23.90
M A Ballham	38.4	50	1245	42	0	4	22.64
M A Ballham	24.2	14	1047	30	1	0	24.90
R D B Croft	35.0	21	1464	40	0	0	35.60
G A Hick	149.1	4	741	19	0	0	39.00
G P Thorpe	20.0	1	97	2	0	0	48.50
I O Austin	37.3	1	179	3	0	0	53.66
N H Fairbrother	1.0	0	5	0	0	0	5.00

* denotes not out

Celtic win Farry fight

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

JIM FARRY's football career is effectively at an end after the Scottish Football Association chief executive was yesterday suspended over the Jorge Cadete affair. Celtic have claimed for three years that Farry delayed the processing of the transfer of the Portuguese player in time for the Scottish Cup semi-final against Rangers in 1996. Celtic lost the game 2-1.

But yesterday they won the war against the most powerful figure in the Scottish game. The SFA has offered Celtic a written apology as well as agreeing to pay compensation and meet Celtic's legal fees, and Fergus McCann, the Celtic chief executive, yesterday wasted little time in condemning the

part played by Farry. "It has taken Celtic and its supporters three years to receive justice on the issue of the SFA's chief executive Jim Farry's failure to properly register Jorge Cadete. It is deplorable that a prominent member club should be disadvantaged in this way when on several occasions the SFA's chief executive had the opportunity to make the correct decision. Mr Farry's failure to properly and timeously register Jorge Cadete leaves the club in no other position than to ask for the office bearers of the SFA to recognise that Mr Farry's po-

sition is untenable. This case demonstrates clearly that Mr Farry cannot be allowed to hold and exercise such powerful authority."

The issue recently went to arbitration with the SFA admitting liability before proceedings could finish. Clearly angered by the whole situation, Celtic are demanding the dismissal of Farry, who has held the top job at the SFA since 1990 following 10 years as secretary of the Scottish League.

In the last nine years he has been frequently criticised for his dictatorial attitude which at times appeared out of tune with the ordinary supporter. He insisted on Scotland playing a European Championship

qualifier on the day of the funeral of Princess Diana only to back down in the face of severe pressure and criticism.

Farry's motives for delaying the Cadete transfer remain unclear and although Celtic supporters will interpret his actions as indicating a pro-Rangers stance, McCann refused to be drawn on the topic. "I'm not claiming there was malice but there was intent. There was a failure on his part despite the advice of Fife and Celtic. This is a matter that goes beyond Celtic Football Club, it's a question of somebody who has failed to follow the rules of football."

McCann intends to hold discussions with the other clubs in



Farry: Suspended

the Scottish Premier League and his frustration with the powerbrokers at the SFA could prove the motive towards a shift of power towards the new body who would effectively run the elite body of Scottish football. In the meantime Farry has agreed to co-operate with an SFA investigation into his actions.

Ronaldo stays behind as Inter depart

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS in Milan

SO ALEX FERGUSON will not, after all, have the world's greatest striker to worry about tomorrow night. Ronaldo himself put an end to the possibility that he would appear in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford when he announced last night that he will not be on the flight carrying Internazionale's squad from Milan today for their meeting with Manchester United.

Yesterday afternoon the Brazilian went through a final session designed to test his injured knees. After coming off the practice pitch at La Pinetti-

na, Inter's training centre, he spoke to the coach, Mircea Lucescu, the club doctor, Paolo Volpi, and his own physiotherapist, Nilton Petroni. Their conclusion was that he would be better off continuing the programme of work in the gymnasium and the swimming pool which he has been pursuing

since his last appearance, at Bologna in Serie A on 17 January.

"I'm staying here to carry on training," Ronaldo said. "It's the best thing to do, so then when I do come back it's not once again a question of playing one match and then having to miss the next one. Inter's fans must understand that in this situation I am the one who suffers worst."

Over Christmas, Ronaldo went home to Brazil for an intensive course of treatment to the chronic tendinitis affecting both knees, the right in particular. But on his return he found that he was still playing through pain, and the decision was taken to try and get him fit once and for all. Last week he left the gym and returned to training sessions with his teammates, in the hope that he

would at least be able to take a seat on the substitutes' bench at Old Trafford.

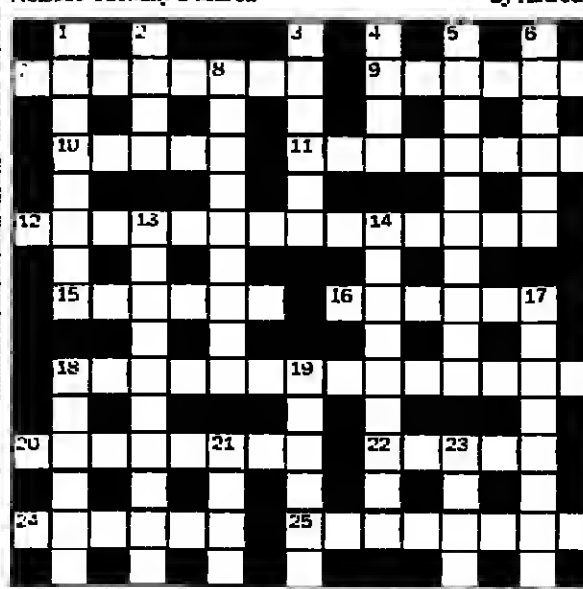
"Ronaldo doesn't want to speak about a particular date for his return," Inter's spokesman, Sandro Sebastiani, said. "But we'll watch his situation, and maybe he can play part of the Coppa Italia match against Parma next Tuesday, and then in the Milan derby the following Saturday." And if those matches went well, Sebastiani added, he would be ready to line up against Fergusson's men in the second leg, at San Siro on 17 March.

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 2859 Tuesday 2 March

by Aifred

Monday's Solution



1 DOWN
2 ACROSS
3 DOWN
4 ACROSS
5 DOWN
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7 DOWN
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10 ACROSS
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22 ACROSS
23 DOWN
24 ACROSS
25 DOWN

- ACROSS
- Intrude gradually, having enclosed fish (8)
 - Male bias suggested in this church book? (6)
 - Daggers partly revealed by strobe lights (5)
 - Wine: the lot is knocked back by trainee soldier (8)
 - Capitalises on changes to include one acquiring in-depth knowledge (14)
 - Formerly concerning his-tener from abroad (6)
 - Good answer adopted by Denmark's port (6)
 - Frantic activity behind space on top storey: we hear, leads to complaint (9,5)
 - One good saint possibly taking in university? (8)
- DOWN
- A French item split? (8)
 - Support English and Scottish bank (4)
 - Figures house doctor will be found in Rhode Island (6)
 - They have some resistance to official letters (4)
 - Annoyance at min-cep's crumbling (10)
 - How from whalebone you might get this? (6)

- 8 Sensuality of mailman is amazing (9)
- Animal shelter one's about to erect on hill needs an assistant (10)
- Notice speech which shows obsession (9)
- Want to get into castle? You could walk in if water's so (4-4)
- Clothes right when put on G1? (3-3)
- It's drunk by one in Scotland and is a healthy drink (6)
- Cooled down on 1st of last month? Just the opposite (4)
- Greek character contributing nothing to Independent Television Authority (4)

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Dumb Britannia

BY JOHN SUTHERLAND

The term "dumbing down" came into widespread use about two years ago. Its origins are obscure but unmistakably American. One of the features that have given it high currency is that you can't easily find a concise English-English equivalent (a small prize to anyone who can). You've known what it means all your life, but never until now had a handy word for it.

Initially the term was handled as something excitingly novel, exotic – and possibly barbarous (might we not be thought a little "vulgar" if we used it?). Newspaper leader-writers, with that pomposity only matched by British high court judges and Lord St John of Fawsley, would pick it up with rhetorical flourishes as "that invaluable American term, 'dumbing down'".

For a while "dumbing down" continued to be enclosed in quote marks, as something not quite English. That vestigial Podsnappery has recently dropped away and the term now walks naked through our discourse and journalism. It has been domesticated. And, just at the moment, it is ubiquitous. In a year or two, we may predict, "dumbing down" will begin to look hackneyed. Those ahead of the curve (whatever happened to that phrase?) will begin to shun the term. Like "political correctness" (whose day in the sun has passed) it will be introduced almost apologetically. The inverted commas will return, now to sanitise the user against the term's staleness. Possibly, like "PC", it will for a while be abbreviated to initials.

Finally it will drop out of sight, recorded only in the graveyard of Oxford's faithful dictionaries of slang as "informal American; current in the late 1990s; now obsolete". A few years ago, *Private Eye* had a whole feature that ran for the best part of a year, as I recall, citing ripe examples of the word "situation" as in "what we have here is a sexual harassment situation". That can term came and went. On *sont les mots d'aujourd'hui*.

"Dumbing down" is not just an American loan word – something that we, as custodians of the English language, have borrowed. It is an alien compound that has colonised a small part of our master dialect, and has driven out a useful item of our own national lexicon in the process. This can be demonstrated by looking at the different national etymologies of the word "dumb". In English-English, from its Anglo-Saxon origins, "dumb" denotes

"destitute of the faculty of speech" – or, by extension, "silent". Thus, in Shakespeare, Cordelia is "dumb" in the sense of not speaking ("I cannot heave my heart into my mouth"). Words, that is, fail her. Intelligence, or lack of it, does not come into it.

In English-English the term has traditionally been applied non-pejoratively to animals – "our dumb friends", as they used to be called. This doesn't mean a dog isn't smart; just that it can't pass the time of day with its owner. The term has had an entirely different character in American-English. There it is influenced by a different root, the German/Yiddish "dumm", meaning "stupid", as in "Dummkopf". Thus, until a few years ago, the word "dummy" had entirely different meanings in Britain and in the US. Here it was a lump of rubber that you stuck into a baby's mouth to shut it up. Over there "dummy" meant someone who was as thick as two short planks. In recent years, the traditional English application has become infected by its American usage. So much so that the 1998 edition of the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* recommends that "dumb" should not be used to denote "incapable of speech". Like the luckless word "niggardly", it has become, accidentally, highly offensive – even to English ears. You have now to say "deaf and speaking-impaired". We have, as I say, lost a word.

And, of course, we have gained a phrase. The term "dumbing down", as we have taken it over from America, is a "pejorative". That is to say, it carries strong negative associations. But what it indicates ("simplification") is not, in every social context, a bad thing. In the world of electronics for instance, where "dumbing down" is glossed as "user-friendliness", it is a very good thing. And yet, as most of us sitting at our keyboards know, there is nothing so dumb (American usage) as your average computer-user. The first question those invaluable help-line operators ask is: "Have you checked that your machine is plugged in?" "Er... no (gulp)". Computers make Forrest Gump of us all.

In other contexts and discourses, "dumbing down" is seen as something highly desirable. There is, for example, a citizens' movement to reform legal jargon and make it comprehensible to the lay population. Doubtless elderly barristers at the Inns of Court mutter over their port about this as dumbing down the law. The rest of us see it as progress.

"Dumbing down" is a term that has been aggressively mobilised in two controversial contexts: education and the "culture wars". There it aligns

Culture is at an end. The Philistines are at the gates. The kids are watching cartoons. In a major series on the state of cultural Britain, we set out to discover whether we have really 'dumbed down', whatever that means

INSIDE

John Walsh on high culture – why does art have to be so difficult?

PAGE 8

itself with the perennial pessimistic tendency. Children are always less educated than their elders. This complaint could be found 50 years ago in Leavisite jeremiads about the irresistible rise of middle- and low-brow taste. It underlies the "Johnny can't read" panics in America in the Fifties and the British "Black Papers" of the Sixties.

The young always seem like know-nothings and philistines to their elders. There is no mystery about this. The generations know different things. I, for example, could not get into university without Latin and two modern languages. I was forced-fed the King James Bible every school day. Not surprisingly, school-leavers whom I interview for university entrance who don't know *ma plume* from *ma tante* or can't recognise the joke in Monty Python's "Blessed are the cheesemakers" may strike me as pig-ignorant. But there is much that they know that I don't. Put them in front of a computer monitor and this will often become evident. Think of the generic "computer whiz". What do you see in your mind's eye? A greybeard or a *wunderkind*?

Secondly, it is not just that the young know different things; they know things differently. For the last 15 years I have taught English literature (as part of their humanities "requisite") to near-genius science students at the California Institute of Technology. One thing that perplexed me was that these precocious big-brains didn't seem able to remember literary detail: "That guy in that play," they would mumble: "Hamlet!" I'd snarl through gritted teeth. The reason, I worked out, was that they didn't see a reason to store such information, because they always knew where to retrieve it when needed.

My education, like that of most of my generation, was based on trained memory. I took all the important exams in my life with the necessary knowledge stored in my head. Today's students, the brightest of them, reserve their memory banks for knowing not things themselves but where to find those things. Not surprisingly they seem "dumb" to me. I seem a dinosaur to them.

In the culture wars, the "dumbing-down" issue is more complex. It's complicated by the polemical argument that dumb is good – that is, as it is manifested in childish innocence or sanctity. St Francis conversing with his animals as equals, Wordsworth's "idiot child" (who knows more than his parents), Dostoevsky's Holy Fool, and Forrest Gump – all assert the belief that brains aren't everything. There is, of course, a strong and nostalgic

justification for this, confirmed by the Christian injunction that unless we become as little children we shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. None the less, the majority opinion is that smart is better. Is our culture, driven by the remorseless pursuit of sales and audience ratings, lobotomising us? Roger Scruton thinks so, and cites the popular music business ("Yoofanastasia", as he calls it) as evidence. As Scruton argues, in his *An Intelligent Person's Guide to Modern Culture*: "Pop culture (which is, of course, no culture) is an attempt to provide easy-going forms of social cohesion, without the costly rites of passage that bring moral and emotional knowledge. It... has demoted the aesthetic object, and elevated the advert in its place; it has replaced imagination by fantasy and feeling by kitsch; and it has destroyed the old forms of music and dancing, so as to replace them with a repetitious noise."

There is an old-codger reflex in any reader over 30 that leads us to agree. But, if you look at Scruton's cited arguments, you realise that he hasn't really listened to what he dismisses (on the circularly prejudicial grounds that it isn't worth listening to). He is hard put to come up with five pop groups (grotesquely putting Michael Jackson and Oasis cheek by jowl). David Blunkett, on his part, thinks that TV cartoons are programmatically dumbing down our children. People think our diet of news and entertainment is less "demanding" than it used to be. Blunkett is wrong, I think. Has there ever been a wittier cartoon series than *The Simpsons*? It is true that the average adventure series, bought as a package from America, is nowhere near as good. But neither were B-movies in the Forties, from which we extract prime examples of film noir.

There is, I think, considerable hope in the cultural scene. I, as a teacher of literature, am heartened by the fact that there are now more "classic" titles in print than at any period in British cultural history. A culture in which Jane Austen (in film, TV and print) is a best-seller, where *Shakespeare in Love* is packing cinemas, and where Noel's *House Party* dies for lack of viewers, can't be all that dumb.

Over the coming days, the Dumb Britannia series will examine the ways in which "dumbing down" has been held to have had an impact on our social and cultural life. It will look at education, high art, popular culture and television and will attempt to draw conclusions as to what we really mean when we use the DD words.

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Smear on police

Sir: The Lawrence inquiry report is a biased, politicised smear of the police. The report's incompetence over releasing names and addresses of witnesses is greater and less understandable than the police errors in their investigation of the dreadful murder.

There is no doubt that there are racists among the police. I have met one myself. This must not be tolerated. But the report showed little evidence that racism – rather than simple human error – was the source of police failings in the murder investigation. It showed even less evidence of widespread racism, let alone "institutional".

There was "institutional racism" in Nazi Germany, South Africa, and the American South, but the only institutional racism – properly defined – in the British police is the racial quotas the Government is proposing to introduce. In addition to being racist, these quotas will smear successful black officers as "quota officers" who could not make it on their own.

To define as "racist" any incident that any observer, no matter how irrational or biased, considers to be racist will severely damage race relations. To suggest that privately expressed views should be prosecutable smacks of Stalinism.

The report should be put where it belongs – in the bin.
WILLIAM MACDOUGALL
Conservative Councillor
Haringey Council
London N22

Sir: The Lawrence inquiry has shown what the Conservatives have become – an opposition with no conception of its role.

They have set themselves up as a little party-political guerrilla band whose chosen sport seems to be hunting the scalps of as many ministers as they can, regardless of the underlying issue. This time, they have decided to use the error of judgement by the Lawrence inquiry team in publishing the names of police informants to add Jack Straw to their collection.

Do they think that making political capital out of what should be a bipartisan issue, the battle against racism in our public institutions, will earn them the gratitude of the victims of this error, or of the Lawrence family or of the British public? Do they imagine that they are performing a useful function in attempting to crucify a minister who had the integrity which they lacked, to set up this inquiry because he had the effrontery to go on a weekend break with his family?
ALAN MURRAY
Dorking, Surrey

Sir: The Conservatives' criticism of Jack Straw over the published names of informants in the Lawrence report is asinine. It implies that the Home Office should have been allowed to scrutinise, well in advance of its public appearance, an independent inquiry report and been given powers to query parts of it, and to request changes, in time for correction prior to publication. That would have rendered the label "independent" redundant. The whole idea is ludicrous.
PAUL WALTER
Newbury, Berkshire

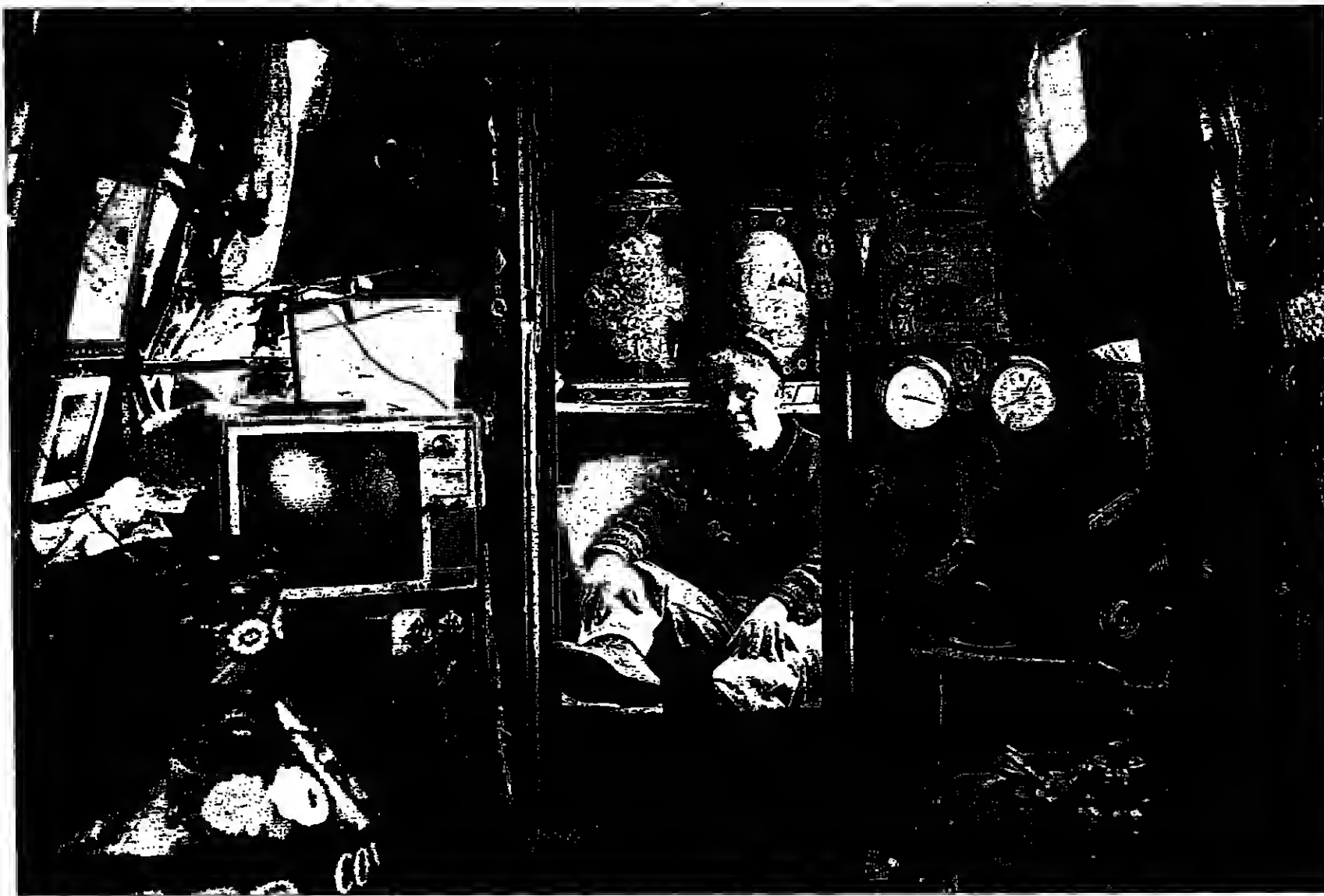
Sir: We are all responsible for creating a society where a young man can be murdered because he is black with nothing done. It is very easy to say that one is "against racism", but the fact that it even needs to be said is revealing.

Rather than conveniently pointing the finger at other people – "those racists" – we need to look closer to home. We must not forget that "racist gangs" are made up of people. They are not an alien force down for a day trip from Mars. They are our sons, our daughters, our mothers and fathers, our colleagues. They are a part of us and we must all bear some responsibility for their actions.
LAURA SMITH
London N6

Sir: It is claimed that the police merely reflect the views of society

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Canals of Birmingham No 2: Dennis Fellows on board his 60-foot boat 'Content' in Bilston. Dennis works as a blacksmith in Dudley, and is a journeyman of the Waterways Craft Guild.
Andy Fox

at large. The police undergo a selection procedure to assess their suitability for the needs of the force. They also undergo initial and ongoing training so that they know the requirements of the job they do, and they are subject to a disciplinary code. This places policemen in a different category from the rest of us. Police also are granted privileges not available to the population at large, and of course, they are public servants.
R.J. GRANGER
Ashford, Middlesex

Ulster's guns

Sir: As the 10 March deadline approaches for the setting up of the new executive in Northern Ireland, I wonder how long the Government is prepared to wait while David Trimble reinterprets the section on decommissioning in the Good Friday agreement to bolster hardline Unionist intransigence.

Why is he not also addressing the issue consistently ignored by the British media – the thousands of licensed weapons in the homes and gun clubs of his own community? As Albert Reynolds recently remarked: "The North is awash with weapons."

It is hypocrisy to demand the decommissioning of IRA weapons when according to RUC figures in 1997 there were 138,727 legally held guns in that province – the majority in Unionist cupboards – for which 63,500 firearms certificates have been issued, many for several guns held by one person.

Equally worrying was Mo Mowlam's written reply to a parliamentary question last year referring to the handgun ban in Britain after Dunblane: "After much thought, I am not persuaded of the need to prohibit the possession and use of target handguns in Northern Ireland. I realise that my decision may disappoint some people who feel strongly, as I do, about firearms control and safeguarding the public."

If there is to be any future agreement on decommissioning, common sense dictates that the

12,771 legally held handguns in Northern Ireland should be the first weapons to be decommissioned, to comply with the legislation applicable to the rest of the UK. Perhaps then the owners of the 111,014 shotguns and airguns, 13,736 small-bore rifles, 326 full-bore rifles and 890 "miscellaneous" weapons could be induced to surrender them.

I suggest as a matter of urgency Mo Mowlam's office meet with the gun clubs of the Orange Order, the Black Preceptory and the Apprentice Boys to put these points so as to gain at least some credibility as a persuader. It is illogical to require republicans to hand over their weapons while their Unionist neighbours a few streets across town are permitted to retain their massive private licensed armories, not to mention the thousands of unlicensed weapons in the hands of Protestant paramilitaries.
MOYA ST. LEGER
London W14

Cheap food mantra

Sir: The Independent falls into line with the oft-repeated mantra that reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and reduced farm subsidies will deliver us the benefit of cheaper food (leading article, 22 February). Why should

Sir: In a world in which the diet of many people is governed by what they can afford, and, indeed, in which many are actually starving, I found "The dinner party" (Weekend Review, 27 February) positively nauseating.
SKEILA PATTINSON
Tidmorton, West Yorkshire

Sir: Mary Dejevsky's rant ("Mutant meat and veg", 24 February) about the crudeness of the American palate has to be the pot calling the kettle black. If she can't

find "sophistication in food and drink in most American cities", she's not getting out of her hotel room enough. And if she truly believes that most Americans confuse "French dressing" with French cuisine, one must wonder how condescending she feels about her countrymen who believe they are eating at Mexican restaurants in these parts.
PETER HAAS
Bath

it? Farm gate prices have collapsed for most products in the last 18 months. Retail prices are all but unchanged. How can this be? A very large proportion of the retail price for much of what we eat is the processing, packing and retailing. A loaf of bread costing 21p will have no more than 10p of wheat in it. The price of wheat might halve, but bread will come down by a maximum of 5p per cent.

The price of food is not determined by cost, but by what the market will stand. Food is cheaper in real terms than it has ever been; we now spend 11 per cent of our disposable income on food, compared with 33 per cent at the end of the Second World War. The food retailing sector now has very high barriers to entry, making true competition (which might push down prices) less possible. There are all sorts of reasons to reform the CAP, but please don't offer cheaper food as one.
NICHOLAS TAPP
Director
St Nicholas Court Farms
Birmingham, Kent

Feeble US

Sir: The US flexes its muscles abroad, but is humiliated at home by big business. The giant redwoods of California will be felled because the state and federal governments seem unwilling or

unable to acquire them by compulsory purchase from the things at the Pacific Lumber Company (report, 1 March). Monsanto abuses the potential of genetic science by breeding insecticide-resistant or sterile versions of staple crops and is rewarded by American government support in enforcing its monopolies on Europe and the Third World. Is it any wonder that the USA's claim to international moral authority is so hard for the rest of the world to take seriously?
MEREDITH OAKES
London SW16

Errant lawyers

Sir: The article "Complaints swamp the Law Society" (24 February) seems to be turning reality on its head. The Law Society has always taken the issue of complaints against solicitors very seriously.

Over the past few years we have invested considerably, for example £5m on a sophisticated computer system, to improve how complaints are dealt with to ensure that solicitors' clients do receive a fair deal. Indeed the solicitors' profession offers the broadest and fullest safeguards to clients of any profession.

To suggest the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors closed down the two solicitors' firms

accused of immigration fraud to stave off criticism is untrue. It took steps the very same day it obtained the evidence needed from the Legal Aid Board.

Our frustration with the issue of immigration abuse has been the lack of information to act on and the powers to act. We continue to press the Government for these extra powers so we can match our commitment to tackling fraud with effective action.
MICHAEL MATHEWS
President
The Law Society
London WC2

Depressed society

Sir: As a doctor, I was prepared for a professional career and thought I could slot a family in just like that. How unprepared I was.

As a mother of three who has suffered from postnatal depression, I would echo all Deborah Orr's ideas (Comment, 24 February) about the breakdown of families and new pressures on both sexes since the sexual revolution as a significant cause of depression today.

I also believe that full-time parenting is so undervalued by society that anybody doing it cannot hope to feel worthwhile or successful.

However, I disagree with her view on drug treatment. I believe I am recovering thanks to a combination of antidepressants, counselling and reorienting my life. There are many causes of depression: biochemical, psychological and social. There are many causes of most illnesses. We all know stressful events can cause angina attacks. That doesn't mean sufferers should keep away from their anti-anginal spray.

It would be wonderful if we could take away the causes of depression in society but that seems unrealistic. So, surely the answer is to treat it in the best ways we understand. Antidepressants work – why not use them?
Dr JOANNA PRICE
Newcastle upon Tyne

Uninformed consent

Sir: The basis upon which people give consent for the removal of their organs is that they are dead before those organs are removed. To the vast majority, death implies loss of hope for recovery of any sense or feeling as well as cessation of circulation and all brain function. From the recent correspondence it appears that these are, in fact, not the criteria used in this country.

Furthermore, it would appear from the letter from Dr Urquhart (25 February), that the disembowelling of the donor is carried out before and not after the cessation of ventilation.

The only true consent is informed consent; the majority of those carrying donor cards are not informed that they will be pink and warm and potentially sentient whilst their vital organs are being removed. Were they to be so informed then it is likely that a large number of those donor cards would follow mine into the waste bin.

To contend that consent should be assumed without an explicit and immediately available statement to the contrary is a tacit acceptance that truly informed consent would be rare indeed.
ROGER BLASSBERG
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: In California, which renews driving licences every four years, one is given the option upon renewal to designate oneself as an organ donor (letters, 1 March). This is indicated on the licence by a small pink dot sticker. In the event of an accident it is easy for an official to see that donor permission has already been given, and that the organs may be removed. Both my husband and I have pink dots on our licences.
JUDITH NELSON
London WC1

Thames in peril

Sir: It is not only Twickenham riverside which deserves celebrity support (letter, 22 February); Kew needs it too.

For ten years we have been fighting a scheme for the Kew riverside site between the Public Record Office and the river Thames. As ever, it is almost entirely for gated "luxury" flats, in six blocks at right angles to the PRD (a brutal edifice itself) and the tow path, stepping down from six to four storeys high.

The Thames in London needs a continuous protection zone along its whole length on both sides, wide enough to encompass those few remaining undeveloped sites, which are under threat of massive over-development and appalling "architecture". The public should have the right to control whatever impacts on land in the public realm.
CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT
London W4

Age of pop classics

Sir: I get very annoyed when my teenage children accuse me of trying to be cool when I buy the latest album by, say, Faithless (Philip Hensher, 26 February). What they find so difficult to appreciate is that I do genuinely appreciate quite a lot of contemporary music. (What I find difficult is that fairly often my purchases disappear into their rooms.)

I do not remember ever being enamoured of my parents' favourite music. Jim Reeves was never my type of thing. However, I do still enjoy playing my old Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin albums. When two survivors of Led Zeppelin played on television recently, my children were captivated.

Popular music in our parents' time was awful, ours was good enough to be enjoyed by our children and today's music is a mixture of so many ideas that it cannot fail to impress someone – and I comfort myself with the knowledge that John Peel is older than me!

ANNETTE MILNES (aged 45+)
Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire

The cunning man in the disintegrating shorts

A MOST extraordinary case is going on in the High Court at the moment, in which a rugby player is being prosecuted for misrepresentation, unlawful trading, and 20 other similar charges – and all because he invented a new kind of rugby shirt. But perhaps a brief extract from the trial will enlighten you.

Counsel: Now, Mr Pratt, you are a professional rugby player, are you not?

Pratt: I am.
Counsel: I believe you have invented a new kind of rugby shirt?
Pratt: I believe that too.
Counsel: Could you give the court a brief description of your revolutionary new rugby shirt?

Pratt: Certainly. You are probably well aware that rugby is the only game in which a player can be

legally held on to by his clothing. In cricket or football, to grasp a player by his shirt and hold him would be viciously against the rules. In tennis it is unheard of. I believe the only other contact games in which you are encouraged to hold on to the enemy are derivatives of rugby like American football.

But in rugby it is quite common to tackle a man by holding his clothing rather than getting him cleanly round the legs. Well, it occurred to me that if you invented a shirt which was just several panels of cloth held together by Velcro, then whenever you were tackled by the shirt, the piece of shirt your opponent was holding would come away in his hands and you would just run on down the field.

Counsel: And you have produced such a shirt?

Pratt: I have. It has made me much more difficult to hold on to. Indeed, I have scored many tries since I first used this shirt.

Counsel: And lost many items of clothing as well, no doubt?

Pratt: After a while, the pitch certainly does become strewn with bits of your shirt. And of course the opposition doesn't particularly like coming away with empty hands after trying to tackle you, so they tend not to return the bit of shirt. In fact, they tend to drop it on the ground and jump up and down on it in rage.

Counsel: Does the same apply to your shorts?

Pratt: Do people jump up and down on my shorts in rage?

Counsel: No, I mean, have you also devised a pair of shorts made of detachable pieces held on by Velcro?

Pratt: I have. I haven't tried them in public as I am not sure whether a man with pieces of his shorts torn



MILES KINGSTON
"The spirit of the game of rugby is to evade capture by any means possible"

Pratt: I have. I haven't tried them in public as I am not sure whether a man with pieces of his shorts torn

away might not be prosecuted for offending public decency.

Counsel: But a man wearing no shirt is quite decent?

Pratt: Oh, yes. In some sports it is even against the law to wear a shirt, and you are forced to go shirtless.

Counsel: Name one.

Pratt: Swimming.

Counsel: Hmm... Name another.

Pratt: Boxing.

Judge: I think he's got you there, old boy. I'd switch the line of attack, if I were you.

Counsel: Very good, my Lord. Now, Mr Pratt, you are aware that this new shirt of yours is considered unsporting by other players?

Pratt: Unsporting? In what sense?

Counsel: In the sense that it is against the spirit of the game.

Pratt: That is absolutely not so. The spirit of the game of rugby is to

evade capture by any means possible. That is why you are allowed to push your hand in the enemy's face to fend him off. That is why you struggle as hard as possible to loosen his grip, or indeed run along with high-kicking knees to make tackling more difficult. My shirt is entirely in the spirit of the game.

Judge: I think he's got you again, old boy. Try another tack. Go up the blind side.

Counsel: Yes, my Lord... How do you mean, up the blind side?

Judge: Well, ask him a question he's not expecting.

Counsel: Yes, my Lord... Like what, my Lord?

Judge: Oh, for heaven's sake! Well, ask him if it had occurred to him that martial arts like ju-jitsu depend entirely on clothes being grasped?

Counsel: I like it! Tell me, Mr

Pratt, has it occurred to you that in some sports, like ju-jitsu, the grasping of garments is the very essence of the sport?

Pratt: Yes.

Counsel: Can you imagine what it would be like if sumo wrestlers had loin cloths attached only by Velcro and lost their clothing bit by bit during a bout? Would the sight not be revolting?

Pratt: The sight of sumo wrestlers is revolting enough already, even when they have their loins clothed.

Judge: I think he's got you there again, George!

Pratt: Yes, my Lord. Any other questions you suggest I might ask him?

Judge: Can't think of any. Let's adjourn and think about it.

The case continues.

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Please calm down and concentrate on the real issues

A LEADING Tory grandee has suggested that this newspaper should hand back the awards it was given last week because it has failed to cover the furore about the Home Secretary's weekend break in France. This pathetic outburst is a depressing reminder of just how infantile politics in this country has become. So is Norman Fowler's call for Jack Straw to "consider his position", especially since he had earlier denied that there was anything wrong with Mr Straw's trip.

Sir Norman has made himself look silly, which is all the more surprising for such a normally shrewd politician. He has allowed Labour to counter-attack with the allegation that the Conservatives are a sloppy and amateur opposition - which they certainly appear to be, given their disarray over Europe, and the invisible men and women who have been awarded most of the shadow portfolios.

Others have behaved in just as silly a manner. A press frenzy has developed, and not just in the tabloid newspapers. One newspaper has referred to Mr Straw "sneaking" back into Britain; another offered rewards to find him. Yet another seemed to think that Mr Straw had jetted off to the type of sunshine holiday that many ordinary citizens cannot afford, rather than a prearranged budget break in cloudy Nice, which is at present basking in temperatures of only 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ministers don't deserve more sympathy than executives in other walks of life. But they don't deserve less. They work long hours for relatively little pay compared with the private sector. They carry heavy responsibilities, with their every move subject to intense scrutiny. Never was this more true than during Mr Straw's last week at work, when he had to deal with the explosive issue of racism and the police. He deserved a holiday after that. Ideally, perhaps, he should have been present in the debate over the release of witnesses' names in the Lawrence report, but in his absence Paul Boateng is a competent minister, fully able to apologise on behalf of the Home Office for mistakes in the report. What is the point of ministers of state, if they are not able to deputise for their superiors?

We are tempted to agree with the Prime Minister's spokesman, Alastair Campbell, and his recent complaints about the "dumbing down" of national political debate. Unable to focus for more than one or two days on the real policy details of any story, opposition politicians and newspapers seem to have got their comment ideas stuck in a groove, continually expressing outrage and calling for resignations.

There are understandable reasons for this, including the arrogant obduracy of ministers in the last government, who seemed to be temperamentally unable to resign even when their policies were utterly discredited.



But the desire to inflict harm at any cost to figures in public life is now becoming unhealthy. There are a number of recent examples of this. Robin Cook's private life has elicited more attention than the issue of Sierra Leone, which is a matter of real public concern rather than prurient gossip. The sexual orientation of Nick Brown, the agriculture minister, was awarded more yards of newsprint than were his farming policies. Some people seemed to think that the main issue raised by the Lawrence report was the future of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, rather than the problems of racism and police accountability.

The laudable objective of holding ministers to account, and making sure they cannot get away with their mistakes, has been forgotten in a melee that has now become so absurd that it would be laughable if it were not so depressing. Opposition politicians, and over-excited journalists, should take note: calm down, concentrate on real issues, and leave ministers' private lives alone.

Peace by diplomacy is Israel's best strategy

ISRAEL'S LATEST attacks on southern Lebanon were foreseeable: every round of killings in this painful saga is followed by a reprisal, each as depressing as the last. Unfortunately for Israel, such acts of revenge are likely to prove as counter-productive as they were predictable.

Israel has the right to defend herself: she is in Lebanon because of the attacks originally of the Palestinians and then of the Iranian-financed Hizbollah militia on civilian targets across the border. In the run-up to an election it was inevitable that any Israeli government would hit back following the bomb attack that killed Brigadier General Erez Gerstein, the highest-ranked Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since the self-declared "security zone" was imposed in 1982. And it is worth remembering that Israel

is not the only villain of the piece, for Syria continues to occupy most of Lebanon long after the security situation - her initial excuse for intervention - has stabilised.

But to recognise all this is not to excuse Israel's great mistake: to think that security can be attained by military victory, rather than through true peace on her borders. Yes, Syria should withdraw from Lebanon; but no one really believes that will happen without Israel making a similar gesture, and without further progress being made on the vexed issue of the Golan Heights.

Unless Israeli politicians want to continue their own little Vietnam, and watch domestic and international support for their operations in Lebanon ebb away, they should seize the opportunity of political change in the Middle East, and open negotiations for withdrawal with the Lebanese government. The Oslo agreement with the PLO seemed unpalatable at the time but held out similar rewards: peace with security. Benjamin Netanyahu says that his aim is such a peace. He should prove it with deeds, as well as words.

The man who said I had a funny name is not, of course, a racist

THE YOUNG man next door is letting his flat. For some complicated reason this led his father, a retired man from Guildford, to contact us concerning insurance. When he phoned he spoke to my partner, who had to give him both our surnames, "Aaronovitch?" he immediately queried. "I'm surprised he hasn't changed his name." My partner was taken aback. "What did he mean?" she asked me later.

Yes, what did he mean? What were the assumptions that underlay his strange assertion? Maybe Mr Guildford had had many Jewish friends who, fearing prejudice, anglicised their surnames - and so he was merely a bit surprised at my family's courage. Possibly, but I don't think so. No, I think it more likely that he just assumed that Jews generally changed their names so that they could assimilate in public, while retaining their separateness in private. It was what the conversos (Jews who converted to Christianity) did in Spain during the Middle Ages, which was why the Inquisition burned so many of them. With us crests (though brilliant) Levantines such deception is something of a habit.

We had never met, never spoken, never corresponded. Mr Guildford and I. And yet he presumed it perfectly acceptable to speak like this to my partner. And I suddenly smelled the rancid whiff of the golf club committee. "Of course, chairman," says the membership secretary, "his name is really Goldfarb. He changed it to Gordon." With one impertinent observation, Mr Guildford made me feel like an interloper in my own bloody house.

He didn't mean to, of course - they rarely do, not even the big ones. In Simon Heffer's exceptional biography of Enoch Powell, *Like The Romans*, Heffer allows that after Powell's 1968 Birmingham speech, many black communities were "pitched into terror". But that, says Heffer, "was certainly not Powell's intention." Later Margaret Thatcher told Heffer that Powell was, in her opinion, "not a racist". Tony Benn, too, has never believed Powell was a racist. A TV trial of Powell last year produced a clear acquittal on the charge of racism.

Yet here, cited by Heffer, is Powell on his return from a visit to the US in 1967, just as Martin Luther King reached his zenith. "Integration of races of totally disparate origins and culture," wrote Powell, "is one of the great myths of our time. It has never worked through history." Except, of course, when it has. And here again is Powell in the same year, writing to Edward Heath. In this letter the aspect of race relations that bothers the non-racist Powell is "not discrimination by white against coloured, but of insolence by coloured towards white". My, but what a telling word that "insolence" is! Children are insolent towards adults, privates are insolent towards captains, and "coloureds" are insolent towards whites. Yet Maggie says that he was an honourable man.

As are they all honourable men. In the wake of the Macpherson report, with its definition of institutionalised racism and uncomfortable conclusions, sympathy for the Lawrences has been replaced as the dominant theme by something else.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

I'm amazed by the number of intelligent people who fail to grasp that you can be a racist without knowing it

Let two letters in yesterday's press stand for all. CR Howe from Hambleton in Hampshire (who has lived abroad and respects the traditions of others) wrote that: "It is a tragedy that in this country, the politically correct left-wing lobby is bent on making native, white Britons ashamed of our history and Christian culture on the pretext of not causing offence to ethnic minorities."

And Ann M Johnston from Dunstable asked: "Can we be sure that the vandalism of the Stephen Lawrence memorial was the work of a white racist? Might it not have been someone from one of the other ethnic minority out to cause further problems for the police?" The Chinese perhaps. Or maybe a cop-hating Vanuatuan.

They are pretty typical. And they are not, of course, racists. Racists

wear pointy hats and sheets and say "nigger" and deface memorials (unless, of course, the fanatically clever Somalis get there first). Consequently the ordinary non-racist will accept no definition of racism that suits them. The cap never ever fits. Which is why they and their mouthpieces have been so offended by the recommendations and definitions in the Macpherson report.

There are some hostages to fortune in there. Critics of the report have zoomed in on some of the recommendations that changes in the law be reviewed, in particular concerning racism in private and the exceptional application of double jeopardy. I would just remind readers that Macpherson is very tentative here, suggesting only "that consideration should be given" to this, to that and to the other.

But the real quarry is Sir William's definition of racism. For some reason it evokes anger and denial among Britons of all classes and outlooks. Racism is held to be "conduct or words or practices which advantage or disadvantage people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. In its more subtle form it is as damaging as in its overt form."

To get to this conclusion Macpherson asked himself what psychology could have given rise to the treatment experienced by Duwayne Brooks and the Lawrences. In other words, he took the effects and worked backwards, rather than beginning and ending with intent. He concluded that an absence of an active desire to harm people is not an absolution when

people are indeed harmed by your actions and attitudes.

So, can you be a racist without knowing it? Yes. Of course. It doesn't make you a member of the Ku Klux Klan, or even a bad person. But it does mean that, with a bit of thought, you might behave more admirably and more fairly. In some cases this will make little life-or-death difference, but in, say, the police force it is crucial. It is certainly something to think about if you are inclined to shower journalistic awards on the likes of Richard Littlejohn and Gary Bushell, or to excuse Bernard Manning.

This week I have been astonished by the number of intelligent folk who cannot grasp this, or who see it as a first move towards planting microchip monitors in their heads. True, it is a more sophisticated argument than the one we had back in the late Sixties. I believe that we can cope with the complexity precisely because we have progressed since then, and we are a more tolerant nation. However, we still have work to do. In Eltham, in 1993, there was a lynching and the sheriff didn't catch the killers. And we can do a whole lot better.

Mr Guildford, I reiterate, didn't know the first thing about me. But the second he heard my name a picture began to assemble itself in his brain; the foreign monitor triggered an assumption. It made me uncomfortable, but it doesn't matter too much. That's because (a) I don't wear my name on a placard everywhere I go; (b) he's not a policeman; and (c) my son has not just been stabbed in the heart while waiting for the bus.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We do have obligations to our families, even if we are politicians."
Jack Straw,
Home Secretary

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Never to talk about oneself is a very refined form of hypocrisy."
Friedrich Nietzsche,
German philosopher

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
World comment on the weekend's presidential elections in Nigeria

MANY NIGERIANS hope that Mr Obasanjo's rule will end the military's political role. This is unlikely. Mr Obasanjo, president from 1976 to 1979, is the only military ruler to leave office voluntarily. Yet he is still close to the armed forces. Reversing Delta poverty is a task that may be hindered by his links to the armed forces. To have any success in tackling Nigeria's daunting problems, Mr Obasanjo must make his government not the last stage

in a military transition, but the first stage of full civilian rule. *The New York Times, US*

IT IS important to commend Abubakar for driving towards his promise of a swift transition to civil democracy. This commendation is proper, given the red herring regarding the unpopularity of the decision in military circles. It is imperative that the civil populace, especially those who have now gotten themselves elected into

leadership, to facilitate the permanent removal of the military from partisan politics, as we begin to pursue the business of national recovery and regeneration. This in-comeing government must take off with that assignment. *Post Express, Nigeria*

Nigeria will not be easy to eradicate. The marginalisation of the southern tribes by northern rule, and the economic backwardness of the north, are not issues that a President can decree away. They require committed and honest hard work by all Nigerians. There is a need to send a strong message that there will be a day of reckoning for those who turn the gun on their own. The military, after 30 years in power, must surely know that no

elected government can be as incompetent as it has been in governing the nation. *The Nation, Kenya*

THE ABUBAKAR transition programme has travelled far and the climax of the electoral process, the presidential election, will enable Nigeria to enter the next millennium free and democratic, with the will of the people established as supreme. *Daily Graphic, Ghana*

PANDORA

JOHNNY DEPP is set to star in the supernatural thriller *The Ninth Gate*, Roman Polanski's first film since 1995. The exiled director was forced to abandon *The Double* three years ago after John Travolta stormed off the set – and Sean Penn, Robert de Niro and Al Pacino all suddenly discovered previous commitments preventing them stepping before his cameras. Paris-based Polanski has been negotiating with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office to have charges dropped dating from an incident more than 20 years ago when he was accused of having sex with a 13-year-old girl. With paedophilia in the Nineties occupying the position that Communism did in the Fifties as the zeitgeist's pariah vice, sources say the Polish-born *outlier* has been advised not to hold his breath.

CHARLES KENNEDY is not universally popular among his party's older statesmen. Politicians know that when the precocious Kennedy first won Ross Cromarty & Skye at the age of 23, David Owen responded: "Who? Where?" But delve into Owen's memoirs and you'll discover that Roy Jenkins thought Kennedy was one of a group of SDP types who were "mesmerised" by the vampire Owen, while Bob Maclennan described the young Scot as a "Judas" after voting against a motion particularly close to Bob's heart. But Kennedy, Harvey, Hughes and other putative Lib Dem leadership contenders may rest assured that Owen should be distracted from meddling in the contest by his new fondness for some daft euro-bashing.

BEVERLY HILLS citizens will vote this spring on an ordinance that would compel local furriers to tag merchandise with labels stating: "This product is made with fur from animals that may have been killed by electrocution, gassing, neck-breaking..." Sometime London resident Diana Ross (pictured) is leading the fur fans: Georgia-born belle Kim Basinger the anti. One Hollywood cynic says that the plan is academic anyway: "I don't think a stupid label's going to make any difference. In this town, women get minks the way minks get minks."

PARLIAMENTARIANS CONCERNED about GM foods are being served mixed messages by the Commons Catering Committee Chairman Dr David Turner MP in July, he told his

Lewes counterpart Norman Baker that no frankenfoods would sully Westminster's crockery. Then he sent MPs a letter last week stating "the Catering Committee does not have a policy of banning such foods". Foodies confused by this neither flesh-nor-fowl stance are now being told that there is a third way. According to the Director of Catering Services, no ban exists but there is "a policy of avoiding... the use of foods that are known to contain genetically modified organisms". Pass the hot potatoes.

IT'S a question that is preoccupying Millbank's young, hot-shot webmasters. They had an irate call from Culture Secretary Chris Smith after he discovered the official Labour Party website listed him as single. This must have come as something of a surprise to Dorian Jahri, the force behind the Tools for Schools computer recycling initiative: he and Smith live together in Islington with their Tibetan terrier, Tian, and are a long-time, long-term couple. Smith's fusillade triggered a volley of calls from other ministers. One wants to post a new picture because the current snap makes his face "look too fat". Another has demanded the removal of all dates from her biography to "avoid her looking so old". Pandora has bottles of fizzy pop chilling on ice for the first readers to successfully identify the two ministers concerned.

PAPARAZZI SNAPS have surfaced showing Doris Day, 73, snogging her next door neighbour, some silver-tongued lothario of 79, Whipcrack-away!

LONDON IS sinking. The capital's water table is at half its depth of 30 years ago; a well in Trafalgar Square is filling up at the rate of three metres per year. London Transport is concerned enough to be meeting insurance experts to analyse the implications. Thames Water predicts that drilling holes to pump away a projected 70 million litres of surplus water will cost £10m – plus £2m per year for subsequent maintenance. Look for gushing mayoral wannabes to start fishing for a No Flooding platform. But how it will go down in west London's hijou Little Venice?

Contact Pandora by e-mail on: pandora@independent.co.uk

Hail the prophet of masculinism



TERENCE BLACKER

With 'The Whole Man', Dr Greer has returned to one of the most important issues of our time: men

IT IS now almost 30 years since Dr Gerry Greer, then a flamboyant and fast-living hero of the counter-culture, redefined late 20th-century gender roles in his ground-breaking polemic *New Balls Please: Towards a New Masculinity*. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the book prompted millions of words, thousands of Men's Studies courses at universities, and hundreds of international conferences, where leading male thinkers could discuss the changing role of men in society with other leading male thinkers.

Now, with the long anticipated publication of his new book *The Whole Man*, Greer has returned to one of the most important issues of our time: men. Yes, Gerry Greer is back – and this time he's angry.

Of course, as many of our leading male writers have pointed out over the past week, we have all come a long way since the days of *New Balls Please*. Sometimes, over the past three decades, it has seemed that hardly a week could go by without the publication of yet another study raising new and ever more provocative topics.

What kind of male orgasm is

now politically acceptable? Why is the all-important role that men play in modern society so often taken for granted – indeed, sometimes not even mentioned at all? What should we do about the media's obsession with unacceptable male role models, from Jack Nicholson to Liam Gallagher, who reinforce sexist stereotypes of men as randy, unreliable, slobbish and rude? Is it

acceptable for a concerned, post-*New Balls* man to dress sexily in figure-hugging jeans? Does conforming to the socially approved habit of, say, removing excess hair from one's nostrils represent an acceptance of an oppressive feminine aesthetic?

Dr Gerry Greer was in the forefront of these urgent male debates. When he revealed to a shocked world that, at the age of 19, he had been sexually harassed by an older woman, many of his fellow male writers were quick to confess that they too had been traumatised by ravaging, exploitative women. For the first time, it became movingly clear that, in a very real sense, all men were essentially victims.

Now and then, a woman would try to enter the debate with contributions which all right-thinking men quickly recognised as misguided, opinionated or simply irrelevant.

Encouraged by the flukish success of the American best-seller *Iron Joana*, an absurd and frankly rather sinister new-age volume which encouraged women to go to the woods together and get in touch with their inner bitches,

British writers like Nellie Lyndon and Davida Thomas published books expressing a female perspective on the gender debate. They were widely ridiculed by all right-thinking men as hopeless inadequates whose views were utterly irrelevant to what was essentially an all-male debate.

Not that the views of Dr Gerry Greer always found favour with what the media had come to describe as "the brotherhood". On one occasion he fell out with a fellow writer who had falsely alleged that Greer's views on parenthood had been informed by a decision to have a vasectomy at the age of 25. A discussion ensued in which Greer described his critic as a bald-pated git with fuck-me brogues and three pairs of socks stuffed down the front of his underpants.

If at this point, certain people had become tired of the debate, they did not include publishers or features editors. Dr Greer was paid £500,000 to update his views. *The Daily Telegraph* excitedly serialised it for a week. Less important news topics – the world economy, the future of Europe, the rise of biotechnology,

the death of the countryside – were kicked out of the broadsheet newspapers to make way for page after page in which every prominent media male was asked to react to Dr Greer's exciting new views.

Naturally, there were a few naysayers and sexists who argued that, after 30 years, the *New Balls* debate had become little more than a media circle jerk of interest only to the writers participating in it. It was said that most of the questions being discussed by this small, self-obsessed group of pundits were utterly irrelevant to the lives of men in the outside world, earning a living or bringing up a family. The subject had become dull, it was argued. While the discussion of gender relations had once been important, there really were rather more urgent matters to discuss at the end of the millennium.

It was even suggested that, in the acres of newspaper devoted to the issue, the reactions of one or two women might occasionally have been of interest. Unfortunately, none could be found who gave a toss about Dr Gerry Greer and his new, improved views on the whole man.

Life outside Euroland is rich and full of promise



HAMISH MCRAE

The nations that have decided against joining the euro are not poor, isolated little countries

ANYONE WHO believes the line that joining Euroland is somehow inevitable may like to consider the alternative: remaining a member of Northland.

Northland? Never heard of it. No, because it does not exist. But if you were to add up the Western European countries that are not members of the euro and call them Northland, you would have a country that would be slightly larger even than Germany both in population and economic output. Were Northland a single country, it would be the third largest economy in the world.

Who is in Northland? Well, there is the UK for a start. There are the other two Western European non-euro members of the EU, Sweden and Denmark, and three other European countries outside the EU, Switzerland, Norway and – not to be forgotten – Iceland. (I haven't counted the territories that are associated with the UK but are outside the EU – the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar, though added together they have almost the same population as Iceland: 250,000 against 270,000.)

The total population of Northland is 85.2 million, which compares with Germany's 82.1; their total GDP last year was \$2,207bn (£1,300bn), compared with Germany's \$2,132bn (£1,250bn); and GDP per head was almost identical at \$25,900 (£15,200) per head, compared with Germany's \$25,970 and an average for Euroland of \$22,130 (£13,000).

How come Northland is richer than Euroland? The main reason is that Switzerland, Norway and Denmark all have GDP per head well above \$30,000 a year; the UK pulls the average down, but since it has narrowed the gap with continental Europe over the last seven years, not by very much. The UK GDP per head, at \$23,474, is now more than

10 per cent higher than Italy and only 3 per cent lower than France.

But leave aside the current numbers and look at the commercial strengths, for this gives a feel for the dynamics of Northland's economic future vis-à-vis that of Euroland.

The key point to grasp is that by and large Northland is particularly strong in rising industries and is not heavily represented in declining ones. Both the UK and Switzerland have strong international financial service industries. You may not have noticed, but two British banks, Lloyds and HSBC, have become the second and third largest banks in the world by market value, behind the US Citigroup but far larger than Deutsche Bank, continental Europe's largest bank. The UK and Switzerland, with Sweden, also dominate European pharmaceuticals. In communications, Sweden's Ericsson is one of the two main European mobile phone manufacturers (the other being Nokia in Finland), while Britain's Vodafone looks like becoming one of the three or four global mobile phone operators.

The negatives are quite short. Northland is lightly exposed to old industries such as steel and coal; it has a small (and, in the case of Denmark, particularly efficient) agricultural sector. The UK has managed to downsize its ailing motor industry, while Sweden has sold control of Saab and is in the process of selling Volvo. Northland is also particularly strong in developing intellectual property exports. The United States is far the largest net exporter of intellectual property in the world, but the UK is second and Sweden is third. By contrast, Euroland is a net importer. As trade moves from shifting goods around to shifting ideas, Northland gains more and more of an advantage over Euroland.

Partly as a result of this nimble restructuring of its industries, Northland has half the unemployment of Euroland: just under 5 per cent, compared with 10 per cent.

There is one further reason for optimism about the economic future of Northland compared with Euroland. It has a more favourable demographic outlook. The two largest members of Northland, the UK and Sweden, have reasonably high birth rates: with the exception of Ireland, Sweden has the highest of the EU's fertility rates, while Britain's, at 1.8 babies per mother, is also relatively high. By contrast, Euroland has three of the lowest fertility rates, with Germany, Italy and Spain all around the level of 1.2 to 1.3 babies per mother. In another 30 years' time Euroland will have a vast army of retired people supported by a smaller population of working age. In Northland the balance between workers and dependants will have deteriorated, but by nothing like the same extent.

But wait a minute, you may say: this is all fantasy, for Northland is not



Stockholm, the wealthy capital of a prosperous country

a country. It has no single political control, no common ideology, no particular vision of what Europe ought to be, and certainly no common currency.

That is precisely the point. Northland can be successful without any of these things. It can be more successful than Euroland. It already is in terms of wealth per head; and as I have tried to indicate, its advantage is likely to grow because of its more favourable commercial structure and its more favourable demographics. Being physically close to markets is irrelevant if your output is very light (like pharmaceuticals) and so can be transported very quickly and cheaply, or is weightless (like software, research and telecommunications). Being on the fringe of a larger economic zone used to be a disadvantage. Now it has become irrelevant.

The point of all this is not to argue for or against British membership of the euro. That is a decision that goes far beyond economics. It is simply to point out that the Western European nations that have chosen, for whatever reason, not to have become the founding members of the

euro zone are not poor, isolated little countries left, somehow, out in the cold. Not only are they in total at least as successful economically as the members of the euro zone, they are larger than the euro zone's largest member, Germany. Most important of all, a rational assessment of their comparative advantages and disadvantages suggests that on balance they will probably do better than the euro zone countries in the future.

We all tend to assume that political unity brings economic prosperity; that the economies of scale from access to a larger market makes everyone richer. I'm not sure that was ever true, but in so far as it was, the advantage of being part of a larger economic bloc has surely waned. In so far as Switzerland, Sweden and the UK have been successful, it has been by looking at the world as their market, not just Europe. It is not that the EU is too big a market; it is too small. As for political unity, Northland does well precisely because it does not exist. The moment they launch the "euro" to challenge the euro, it will be time to head for the boats.

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We must break the chains of debt

THE HISTORIAN James Walvin asked whether the Atlantic slave trade was the beginning of a process that has continued into the 20th century of European and American economic forces draining Africa of its raw materials and permanently exploiting its cheap and pliant labour, offering little in return but enhanced privation.

The similarities are too disturbing to dismiss. Both the slave trade and the debt crisis exact a human cost. More than 1.5 million Africans died just during the infamous sea passage. Life expectancy at their destination under the plantation owners was only between seven and 10 years. Now, in heavily indebted sub-Saharan Africa, life expectancy is a quarter of a century lower than it is in Britain or the US.

Slaves were sold in early-17th-century Britain for an average price of 24 sh 6d. In sub-Saharan Africa in 1996 the average debt per person was \$379 (£250), many times more than the average income.

There is one especially sinister and exact echo between the two great injustices. Towards the end of slavery an ap-

prenticeship scheme was devised, bonding former slaves to their one-time owners for a further six years. Under the current international debt relief initiative, the stringent austerity measures required of indebted countries also last for up to six years before they qualify for extra relief.

Abolition, it was argued, would be ruinous to the colonies, and the commerce of the country. A Bristol sugar merchant, John Carey, complimented the trade in 1695 for giving "so vast an employment to our People both by Sea and Land".

Now we are told that cancelling debt will lead to corruption and moral hazard and undermine a country's creditworthiness. But where corruption has its fingers in poor countries' tills, its feet are firmly planted elsewhere. We now know that the IMF lent \$600m (£386m) to Mobutu in Zaïre, in the six years after its own officials had reported funds disappearing. The IMF's willingness to bail out irresponsible lenders burnt by the Asia crisis also gave a whole new meaning to the concept of moral hazard.

Opponents of realistic debt



PODIUM

ANDREW SIMMS
From a lecture
at the Union Chapel,
Highbury, London,
by the Christian
Aid campaigner

relief say that countries must remain creditworthy. But the very existence of the debt overhang scares away investors. What about military spending? All governments spend on weapons. Per person, our governments spend far more than those in Africa. Let's just ask who is selling the guns in the first place.

Outlawing slavery in Britain took at least 30 years of foot-dragging and delay. In 1796, a

commitment to gradual abolition prompted one member of parliament to protest, "How can you carry on the slave trade moderately? How can a country be pillaged and destroyed in moderation?" We cannot modify injustice. The question is, to what period we shall prolong it. The new Archbishop of Cape Town comments that the external debt of developing countries has become an eternal debt.

The Group of Seven nations (G7), plus Russia, met this year in Cologne. Better debt relief for the poorest countries was high on their agenda. Each year when they meet they promise to find a solution to the debt crisis.

Nearly two centuries ago, in 1814 and 1815, the rulers of Europe met in Vienna and Paris. They were lobbied by abolitionists such as Thomas Clarkson. No deal was agreed, even though they accepted that slavery was the desolation of Africa, the degradation of Europe and the afflicting scourge of humanity. Will the G7 in Cologne air the same concern, and also delay action?

In Tanzania, more is spent on debt service than on health

and education combined. By 2002 the country may qualify for some relief, but how much? Current plans are an accounting exercise designed not to break the chains, but just lighten the ball at the end of them.

Change will come only when calls for justice become deafening. Today's campaigners have a debt to the past. Many of the techniques we think of as modern were pioneered by the abolitionists. In 1791 Clarkson initiated an early consumer boycott of sugar produced by slavery in the West Indies. He called on people to switch to honey, or sugar produced by free labour – 300,000 people joined the campaign.

At the G7 in Cologne, and the week before in London, thousands backing the Jubilee 2000 coalition campaign formed a symbolic human chain calling for debt bondage to be ended. As an abolitionist, and the author of one of the great narratives of slaves who won their freedom, Frederick Douglass, said: "Those who profess to favour freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without ploughing up the ground."

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For Lebanon, read Vietnam



ROBERT FISK
Hizbollah has carefully copied Israel's old tactics and turned them against the Israeli army

THE PALESTINIANS used to promise that Lebanon would be Israel's Vietnam. The Israelis laughed at this, invaded Lebanon in 1982 (for the second time in four years), drove the PLO from Beirut and - by the sheer ferocity of their assault - created Hizbollah. And Hizbollah has now fulfilled the Palestinian prediction. Not only has Israel lost the Lebanon war - it has been comprehensively defeated by one of the world's most professional guerrilla armies - but America's ally in the Middle East does not frighten the Lebanese any more.

Last week, it was an Israeli colonel and two of his soldiers who were killed in occupied southern Lebanon; this week it is a general and three of his soldiers, all ambushed inside an area which the Israelis still, incredibly, call their "security zone". And what was the Israeli response? The same rhetoric from the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, about "striking at terrorism" that the Lebanese have been hearing for more than 20 years.

The vacuity of Israel's much trumpeted "revenge" was all too evident in the name it chose for its latest retaliation into Lebanon: "Operation Land, Sea and Air." The pitiful truth is that not a single Israeli soldier ever longer stray outside the occupation zone; not one Israeli soldier will advance on foot or even with tanks to attack Hizbollah guerrillas. So much for the "land" element of the operation. There will be no armoured land assault. The usual artillery bombardments will be fired into Lebanon and in the past 48 hours, we've witnessed the usual air attacks - around 23 raids, bringing the total number of air strikes on Lebanon in the past 12 months to close on 1,400. And the little Helz-class gunboat banging away at the old Palestinian camp at Nahme south of Beirut - at a target that has not the slightest connection with Hizbollah - is not going to worry the men who are destroying the Israeli army in southern Lebanon.

Needless to say, the Americans - for the 23rd time in 20 years, by my count - have called on both sides "to exercise restraint". And, as usual, Israel's friends have been



A soldier sitting on his tank yesterday in southern Lebanon after Israel said it would attack Hizbollah targets to avenge the killing of a general Haidar Hawila/Reuters

telling the story from Israel's point of view. CNN told its viewers of the Israeli civilians close to the Lebanese border who had to spend the night in bomb shelters for fear of a Hizbollah attack that never came. There was, of course, no report of the Lebanese civilians who had to spend the night under real Israeli attack.

In reality, Hizbollah has assiduously copied Israel's old tactics - and turned them against the Israeli army. When Israel began using analogue-system detonation for bombs hidden in rocks to ambush Hizbollah, the guerrillas duplicated the Israeli technology and added booby traps of their own. When the Israelis dressed their great Merkava tanks in armour to prevent rocket attacks, Hizbollah learned to fire missiles between the plating. When the Israelis boasted of their intelligence prowess in southern Lebanon, Hizbollah suborned or blackmailed Israel's Lebanese collaborators and forced them to betray the Israelis.

The two most recent ambushes - like the destruction of an Israeli commando unit at Aansariyah last year (itself on an ambush mission) - were all set up by Hizbollah with

the help of men inside Israel's occupation zone, some of them members of Israel's own proxy South Lebanon Army gunmen. This was the very ramshackle militia to which General Erez Gerstein, Israel's latest victim in southern Lebanon, was the liaison officer - so no wonder Hizbollah knew his route and the time of his arrival. Some of the bombs which killed him were even hanging from the branches of trees, just like the explosives which killed the Israelis at Aansariyah.

But Hizbollah has copied another, far more devastating tactic of the Israelis. In the past, it was Israeli policy to make the Lebanese civilian population pay for the presence of guerrillas in southern Lebanon. The idea was simple: so greatly would the civilians suffer that they would force the Lebanese government to disarm the guerrillas - and save Israel the hard fighting involved in crushing the guerrillas themselves. But now it is Hizbollah that is threatening to fire salvos of rockets into Israel if the Israelis do not cease their attacks. And it is the Israelis who are pleading with their government - to withdraw Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

And here lies the beauty of the whole morass for the Lebanese and for Hizbollah's Syrian and Iranian allies. Syria wants the return of the occupied Golan Heights; and the continuation of Hizbollah's war against the occupation of southern Lebanon is the one bloody pressure that Damascus can apply on Israel to leave Golan. Israel, say the Lebanese, can withdraw from southern Lebanon under UN Security Council resolution 425 of 1978 which it has flouted for 21 years. When Mr Netanyahu lists his own conditions for a retreat - which include absorbing his old SLA collaborators into the Lebanese security forces - he is told to get lost. Obey the UN resolution, he is told, which calls for "total and unconditional withdrawal". But the Lebanese are in no hurry to see the Israelis go, because the Syrians are prepared to watch Hizbollah keep killing the Israelis for staying.

Desperately, Israel is trying to find a way of minimising its military presence in southern Lebanon. Gun batteries which should contain a minimum of 10 Israeli soldiers often contain only four or five. So fearful are they of roadside bombs and missiles that can even pene-

trate Merkava tanks that Israeli soldiers now walk home on leave to the Israeli frontier at night, up to 12 miles of rough hiking across the open countryside of southern Lebanon. The Israelis are planning the possible abandonment of the finger of mountain territory they control up to the town of Jezzine above Sidon; a withdrawal here would reduce casualties on the single road connecting Marjayoun with Jezzine on which more than 30 Israelis have been killed. But this would also allow Hizbollah to concentrate their attacks onto a smaller area of southern Lebanon.

Of course, the Vietnam parallels can be taken too far. The war in southern Lebanon is not on the awesome scale of the conflict in Southeast Asia. Deaths on both sides are running at a maximum of only a dozen a week. Israelis are not deserting en masse in order to avoid soldiering in southern Lebanon. And Hizbollah is not going to pour over the border into Israel in the event of an Israeli retreat.

The similarities are closer to Shimon Peres's torment three years ago. Anxious to prove he was "tough on terrorism" before an Israeli election, he launched a bom-

bardment against Hizbollah in which Israeli artillerymen massacred 106 refugees in a UN camp in a bloodbath at Qana and which brought down more rockets in retaliation on northern Israel than the total in the last 40 years.

Mr Netanyahu now also faces an election in 10 weeks and also wants to prove that he is "tough on terrorism". Already he is speaking of revenge for "the criminal attacks on our towns and villages" - a mercenary statement (unchallenged, of course, by CNN) that totally avoids the truth: that the Israeli general and his comrades were killed not in Israel but in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

But the Israeli public is not so easily fooled. The growing movement of Israeli mothers demanding an end to this pointless, boneless occupation is larger now than it was when Peres was prime minister. Will Mr Netanyahu listen to these voices? Or will he stick to the old, brutal policies pursued with such ferocity almost two decades ago by his current foreign minister, Ariel Sharon. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, Israeli leaders use to threaten. Now, however, that is Hizbollah's motto.

RIGHT OF REPLY

RICHARD BURGE



The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance replies to yesterday's article by Andreas Whittam Smith

IN HIS article, Andreas Whittam Smith asks for evidence of anti-rural prejudice - he needs only to read his own words for the answer. He promotes ignorance of the issues and peddles the very myths that cause acute resentment against the countryside.

Mr Whittam Smith promotes the needs of industrial workers against the needs of rural communities. It is simply not true that the Government is neglecting urban industry in order to feather the countryside. A £200m package is reportedly on the cards to help BMW at Rover's Longbridge plant. A mere £120m was scraped together for the entire farming industry as an emergency package.

More importantly, Mr Whittam Smith does not understand the nature of work in the countryside. Most farmers are self-employed, alongside their families.

Farming is not simply a job, it is a livelihood. If you are made redundant in an urban area, you have access to retraining and jobs created in new industries.

In rural areas you lose your home and capital, and there is not even a job centre. British farmers - or most of them on small tenanted holdings - are more victims than beneficiaries of the perversities of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is the only industry nationalised at a European level. A traditionally self-reliant people have far less mobility than urban workers. They are trapped in a game that robs them of self-determination. The *One Man and his Dog* issue is not about a reluctance to change. It was the one programme about rural people made by rural people.

This piece will be put on our website. Hill farmers have access to the Internet. And Mr Whittam Smith says nothing changes in the countryside!

The end of the world news

THIS IS the 16th annual audit of the global environment from the Washington think-tank the World Watch Institute. Once again, the message is "things are really bad... but don't give up hope". This year's tour of threats to the environment ranges across energy systems, urban life, forests and agriculture. But let's start with the oceans.

We depend on this extraordinary resource for vital and poorly understood global ecological services such as climate regulation, for 16 per cent of our animal protein, not to mention inspiration, beaches and tourism. Yet a breakdown of the world's marine ecosystems is staring us in the face. A 50-year, resource-intensive binge of economic growth and personal consumption in the OECD countries, combined with breakneck industrialisation and population growth in the southern hemisphere, has taken us to the point of marine catastrophe.

So 60 per cent of the world's coral reefs are in danger of destruction; 60



TUESDAY BOOK
STATE OF THE WORLD 1999
EDITED BY LESTER BROWN AND CHRISTOPHER FLAVIN.
EARTHSCAN, £14.95

per cent of the world's edible fish stocks are close to, or beyond, the point of collapse. Cyanide poisoning, as a mode of fishing, is on the rise. Fluorescent algal blooms have turned great swaths of the Gulf of Mexico into a dead zone. Heavy metals and organophosphates accumulate in every stage of the food chain, from phytoplankton via seals to the Canadian Indians, dependent on their meat and blubber.

The numbers, the ecosystems and the industries change; but across the board, in this meticulously researched and calmly argued report, the story is the same. Fossil-fuel energy systems, pesticide- and irrigation-dependent farming, car-based transport and up-

regulated mega-cities have all created environmental problems that exceed their benefits. A century of unrelenting growth has brought us accelerating climatic change, declining water tables and disappearing rainforests. If you have not read a State of the World report before, it is almost impossible to read one and not conclude: this cannot go on. It has to stop now. The 1999 edition is no different.

However, your reaction at the end will probably be: what is to be done? Last year, the worldwatchers were calling for visionary leadership in the US. So 1998 was a political non-starter. This year, in the concluding chapter, political responsibility is cast a little wider: governments, corporations, aid agencies and active citizens all get a look in. And, as the worldwatchers bristly state, there is no shortage of things to be done now.

Governments should be taxing pollution and resource consumption, not work and investment. They should subsidise renewable technologies and cyclists, and stop spending \$550bn a year of public money on logging, mining and motoring. Governments should write better environmental regulations, and enforce more assiduously those they already have. They could make available more information about pollution and its risks.

Smart companies should be thinking about how they can make a buck out of sustainable energy, transport and agriculture, rather than trying to squeeze the last drops of surplus out of a poisoned planet. It would also be helpful if they devoted less political en-



Should there be a tax on pollution? Brian Harris

ergy to spiking international climate negotiations and biodiversity treaties. The same goes for the international organisations and treaties that we do have. The World Bank, which invests six times as much in the global coal industry as in renewable energy and energy efficiency, could do with a sharp shift in priorities. The World Trade Organisation, as a start, could acquire some environmental priorities. It currently considers nearly all environmental regulations - such as banning the sale of shrimps caught with nets that kill rare sea-turtles - as illegal barriers to free trade.

As for us citizens, we need to get educated. If we could only see the world more holistically, if we could listen to alternative sources of moral knowledge, if we could only think about our children's interests a bit more... All of this is true, but as a reader who has a few State of the Worlds under his belt, I have had enough education, and enough of the polite, painless optimism

of the worldwatchers. It's not their fault. If I were trying to influence the US Congress and mainstream US opinion, I too would probably be a polite educational optimist. However, there is a pressing need, when we speak to ourselves and to our elites, to be less measured and more angry.

At the latest conclave of the G7 finance ministers - the nearest thing we have to a directorate for the regulation of the global juggernaut - the only thing that the suits managed to agree upon in their banal communiqué was the need to "promote... strong and sustainable domestic-led growth", by which they mean growth that just keeps on keeping on. These people may be running the planet, but they are not on it. I don't know whether to try to make them read State of the World, or just hit them with it.

DAVID GOLDBLATT
The reviewer lectures in social sciences at the Open University

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



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Professor Glenn Seaborg

GLENN SEABORG discovered plutonium, one of the world's most exciting substances.

Before dawn on 24 February 1941, the team of nuclear scientists he led at the University of California's Berkeley campus identified element 94 in the periodic table, second of the transuranium elements. It had been made by atomic bombardment in a cyclotron. Plutonium followed the discovery of neptunium, element 93, by Seaborg's colleague Edwin McMillan at Berkeley, in 1940.

Element 94 was named plutonium after Pluto, the next furthest planet from Earth. Seaborg and McMillan shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1951 for their discovery of what young Seaborg wanted to call the "actinide series" of the heaviest elements starting with element 89. "Don't do it," friends cautioned, "you'll ruin your scientific reputation," he recalled at a 50th anniversary meeting in 1991. "I had a great advantage," Seaborg replied, "I didn't have any reputation at that time."

His concept proved to have great predictive value, and helped the discovery of another 17 man-made elements, of which he participated in a total of 10. In 1997 element 106 was named seaborgium – the first to be named after a living person. In 1991 the Seaborg Institute, devoted to the study of the 20 heaviest elements, from thorium (90), was inaugurated at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

No element has been more intensely studied or proved to have a more unruly and fascinating range of properties than plutonium. Seaborg called it the "ornery element". "When you hold a lump of plutonium in your hand it feels warm, like a live rabbit," observed a woman scientist who helped refine it during the Second World War.

Plutonium is a dark, silvery metal which when molten is chemically intensely reactive and very hard to contain. As a solid it exists in several different physical states with different properties, which makes metalworking extremely exasperating as it changes dramatically between states. But its paramount property is that the plutonium-239 isotope is fissile. It offered an alternative to uranium-235 as a potential nuclear explosive.

Seaborg could not even see his first speck of plutonium oxide, but the pressures of the new US Manhattan Project (developing the atomic bomb) soon had the science – and Seaborg – transferred to the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago, to work out ways of "mass producing" the metal. Here the first visible amount of plutonium was made: about one millionth of a gram.

Early in 1942, at a general conference on plutonium chemistry in Chicago, attended by Seaborg, two main tasks were identified. One was to separate the metal in the amounts and purity required for war purposes. The other was to obtain good understanding of the chemistry needed to build and maintain "atomic piles". Seaborg was appointed to lead the separation team.

In the next two years plutonium manufacture in atomic piles and refinement in kilogram quantities to provide the critical mass for a weapon scaled up the process ten million times – "surely the greatest scale-up factor ever attempted", Seaborg was to remark.

The verdict of the official history of the Manhattan Project by H.D. Smyth in 1945 was: "Altogether the

Seaborg called it the 'ornery element'. 'When you hold a lump of plutonium in your hand it feels warm, like a live rabbit,' said a colleague

solving of many of the chemical problems has been one of the most remarkable achievements of the Metallurgical Laboratory." From the outset Seaborg was deeply concerned with the toxicity of the new metal, and the need to protect himself and his team from, in particular, airborne particles. He established safe laboratory practices which prevail to this day.

Plutonium's peculiarities lent themselves more readily to fanciful notions from opponents of nuclear weapons and, later, nuclear power than the other nuclear explosive, uranium-235. So pervasive was an erroneous mythology of plutonium by the mid-1970s that, in Britain, the report of the Windscale Inquiry by Mr Justice Parker spelled out seven of the "misunderstandings" then current. His report was implemented but the myths still prevail widely.

In 1961, when the US and Britain were building their first power reactors, Seaborg was appointed by President Kennedy as chairman of the powerful US Atomic Energy Commission and the President's

chief nuclear adviser, a post he held for 10 years. He spoke widely, wisely and well on all aspects of the emerging nuclear industry and the technical and social problems it was facing. He gave much thought to what he foresaw as an emerging "plutonium economy" arising from the byproduct of nuclear reactors, as a way of safeguarding the substance from misuse.

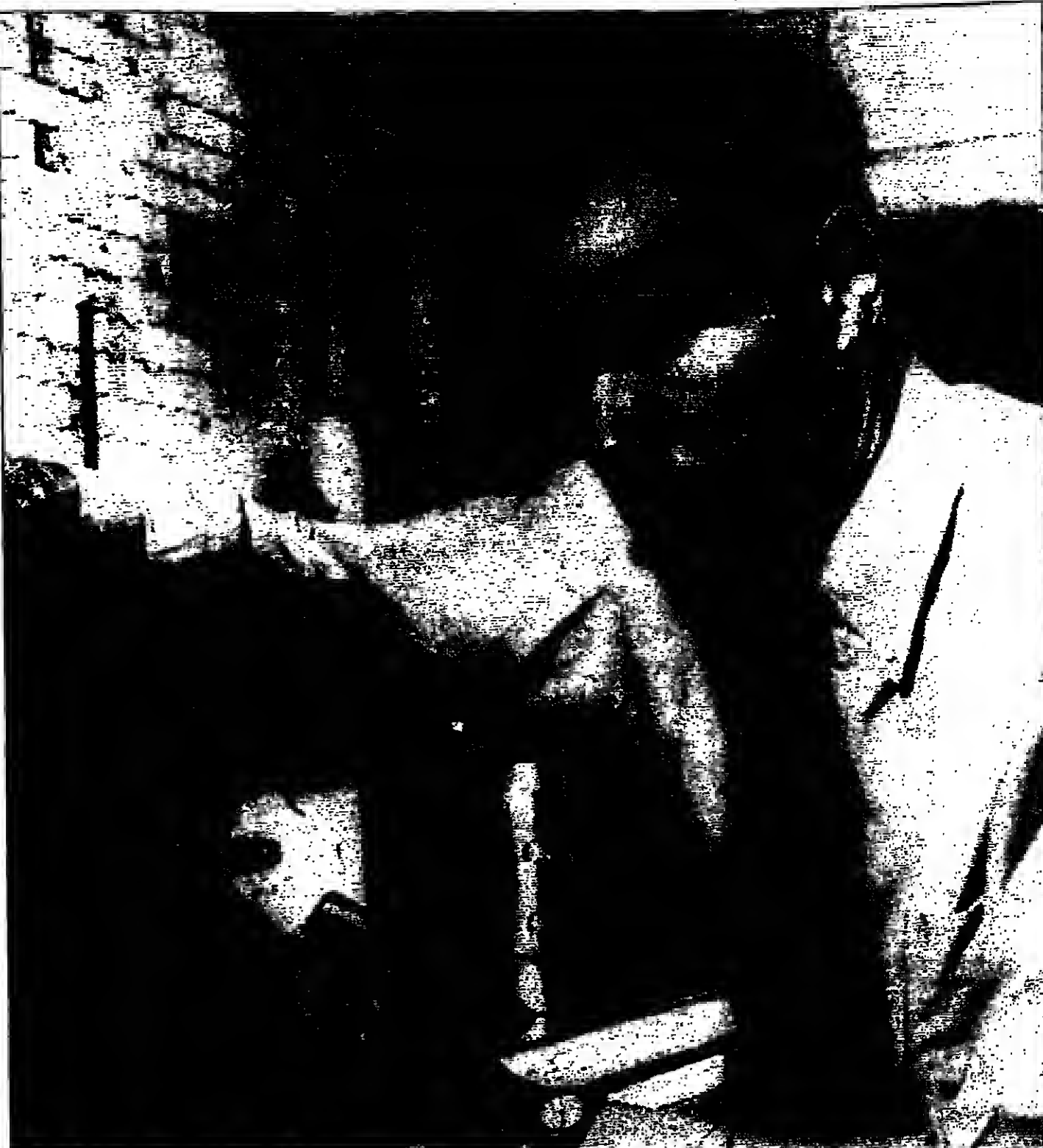
In an interview with the *Financial Times* in 1969 Seaborg discussed the problems a veritable deluge of US reactor orders – over 30 in the mid-1960s – were causing. "People are now becoming conscious of nuclear power plants," he said. "The first coordinated campaigns opposing nuclear power were beginning."

"We take their criticisms seriously, though they chiefly arise through misconceptions," he believed. His counter-attack had just begun, with a tough-talking speech asserting that critics were using an effective method of propaganda known as "stacking the deck". The idea was to amass isolated detrimental facts, and add statements by nuclear authorities lifted out of context, plus a leavening of misinterpretation, he contended.

Specifically, said Seaborg, every fact and statement in a story might be true. Yet the article and its conclusion remained invalid and misleading. "Such dishonesty is made more harmful by the fact that these articles are written as exposés and published in the public interest." He forecast a further deluge of US reactor orders in the early 1970s, but that was not to be.

Glenn Theodore Seaborg was born in 1912 in Ishpeming, Michigan, an iron mining town on the Upper Peninsula. His father was the son of Swedish immigrants, and his mother an immigrant herself. Seaborg spoke Swedish before learning English. He received his first degree in chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1934, and a PhD three years later. That year, 1937, he was appointed a research associate at Berkeley and began his association with such greats of US physics as E.O. Lawrence and J. Robert Oppenheimer, the founders of nuclear science. Seaborg married Helen Griggs in 1942, the year he moved to Chicago.

Seaborg's publications include *The Chemistry of the Actinide Elements*, with Joseph J. Katz, published in 1958; *The Transuranium Elements* (1958); *Education and the Atom* (with Daniel M. Wilkes, 1954); *Men and Atom* (with William A. Corliss, 1971); *Nuclear Milestones* (1972); and *Transuranium Elements: products of modern alchemy* (with others, 1978).



Seaborg in his laboratory at Berkeley, California, in 1941, the year he discovered plutonium

AP

As a pioneer of nuclear alchemy, Seaborg's many scientific awards and prizes included the Enrico Fermi Award of the US Atomic Energy Commission, in 1957. It was then worth \$50,000. Later came the Priesley Medal of the American Chemical Society in 1979, the Henry De Wolf Smyth Award of the American Nuclear Society in 1982, and the Actinide Award in 1984.

Glenn Seaborg returned to academic life in 1971, and to a fruitful period as scientist, teacher, administrator and government adviser from his original base at Berkeley.

DAVID FISHLICK

Glenn Seaborg was a formidable presence, writes Tam Dalyell. I met him in the summer of 1965, when I was asked to stay in the house of Bill Carey, then the senior official in the Bureau of the Budget responsible for the funding of the science and space programme.

I was a member of the first House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, chaired by Arthur Palmer MP electrical en-

gineer and Member for Bristol Central, who determined that an early report should be on the UK nuclear industry, and was therefore interested in the American view. Seaborg, agreed to see me, I suspect, because, like everyone else in federal Washington, he would do a lot to oblige the Bureau of the Budget. The rare guest of the Bureau of the Budget, however unimportant in himself, would get superior treatment to the guest of the State Department.

On entering his office, I found that he was a man of no small talk, but straight, direct and to the point. He was enormously well informed about the British nuclear situation, its difficulties, achievements and successes. He knew in detail all about the Windscale accident, which he insisted on describing as "an incident".

I was gripped by this man with piercing eyes on the likely policies towards and consequences for nuclear energy of the incoming 1964 Labour government. When I explained that some of the younger Labour MPs were fiercely pro-nuclear, because we saw the price of coal being often

the price of emphysema, pneumonia, and chronic bronchitis, from working down a pit in bad conditions, he warmed and said quite simply, "that's very near my own family and that's partly why I want this job and want to champion the cause of civil nuclear power". He was a man of passionate convictions, formed partly by family adversity.

A couple of years later I sent Seaborg the answers to 70 parliamentary written questions about Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean where it was proposed by the Ministry of Defence that there should be an RAF staging post, along the lines proposed by Denis Healey. To have turned the atoll into a base would have been an ecological disaster and would have been the end of the flightless rail, the pink-footed booby, as well as decimating the giant tortoise of the Indian Ocean, whose breeding place it was.

Seaborg's reaction was concern as a scientist, and in conjunction with his friend Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian, he exercised his right to go to the President of the Uni-

ted States direct, then Lyndon Johnson. Parliamentary questions would not have dissuaded Harold Wilson from going ahead with the Aldabra staging post. But a question from LBJ, prompted by Seaborg and Ripley, was altogether another matter.

As Wilson wryly put it to me some months later in connection with Aldabra – he was a generous soul – "You certainly went to the right people in Washington to scupper our proposal!"

Glenn Theodore Seaborg, chemist born Ishpeming, Michigan 19 April 1912; Resident Associate, College of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley 1937-39, instructor, Department of Chemistry 1939-41, Assistant Professor 1941-45, Professor 1945-71, Chancellor 1958-61, University Professor of Chemistry 1971-99; Nobel Prize for Chemistry (jointly with Edwin McMillan) 1951; Chairman, US Atomic Energy Commission 1961-71; married 1942 Helen Griggs (three sons, two daughters, one son deceased); died Lafayette, California 25 February 1999.

Stanley Dance

IT is a testimony to their ability to write well and to communicate lucidly that Leonard Feather and Stanley Dance, both British writers, were able to move to the United States and rise to the top of the heap as experts on jazz, a completely American art.

The textbooks say that Dance went to live in Connecticut in 1937. He found this suggestion offensive: he had stayed in England throughout the Second World War. Total deafness in one ear precluded him from army service and he worked in his father's tobacco business until, inheriting the company himself, he sold up and went to live in the US in 1939.

Only Feather ever made a living out of jazz journalism. Dance needed the financial cushion that he got from selling up his father's firm when he left. The move was prompted too because his Canadian-born wife, Helen Oakley, a jazz authority and record producer in her own right, didn't like the English climate. Oakley had organised concerts for Benny Goodman and had recorded small jazz groups, including some made up of Ellington musicians, from 1937 onwards. She and Dance married while she was in England with the Office of Strategic Services during the war.

In 1958 Sir Edward Lewis, the chairman of the Decca Record Company, had sent Dance to New York to make a series of albums by outstanding jazz musicians who Dance felt had been under-recorded. It was no coincidence that they were all black for, although he never spoke of the matter or engaged in racial politics, Dance felt that black players made superior music to their white counterparts. On one occasion he wrote that Ruby Braff was

the best of the white trumpet players. "Why did he have to say that I was white?" Braff wondered.

The Decca albums, issued on the Felsted label, became classics and with them Dance established a new jazz context that he called Mainstream. The categorisation caught on because it was useful. Dance defined it:

Primarily it is a reference term for the vast body of jazz that was at one time in some danger of losing its identity. Practically it is applied to the jazz idiom which developed between the heyday of King Oliver and Jelly Roll Morton on the one hand and that of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie on the other.

In fact Dance regarded Swing as the purview of white musicians like Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. Mainstream was to encompass the work of black musicians including Duke Ellington, Earl Hines, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins and Buck Clayton. The music and its roots were similar.

The unspoken reverse discrimination on grounds of colour was hard to reconcile. Although Dance's actions helped to bring them new prosperity, the subjects of his new category were not impressed and some felt that he was being patronising.

Dance's interest in jazz had begun when he was a pupil at Framlingham College in Suffolk from 1925 to 1928. The progressive jazz records that he heard in this period included the first made by the pianists Duke Ellington and Earl Hines. Dance was later to become close to both of them. He wrote his first essays in the French magazine *Jazz Hot* in 1935 because "so much of what I read about jazz was so ill-informed and so bad" and over the next two decades until he left for the US continued to write, often for col-

lectors' magazines, when his work in the tobacco industry allowed.

Dance's writings continued to appear copiously until his death. Over the years he was one of the most influential of authors who, through his friendship with Ellington, Hines, Count Basie and others, became more involved with the music than any other non-instrumentalist. His chronicles made him one of the leading jazz historians and he had a hand in shaping the direction taken by the music that he loved.

'When you get someone like Stanley in your corner,' said Earl Hines, 'you're a very lucky fellow'

In 1970 Duke Ellington wrote: Stanley is well informed about my activities and those of my associates. He has been a part of our scene for a long time, maybe longer than he cares to remember. He and his wife Helen are the kind of people it is good to have in your corner: the kind of people you don't mind knowing your secrets. In other words they are friends – and you don't have to be careful with friends.

Dance contributed a monthly column, "Lightly and Politely", to the British magazine *Jazz Journal* from 1948 to 1976. In it he used the royal "we". As his fellow columnist I found this an irritating flaw in such a stylish writer and I tackled him about it on a couple of occasions. He

explained only that it lubricated the flow of his prose.

The so-called Bebop Revolution of the mid-Forbes was perhaps not the cataclysmic change that critics like Dance made it out to be. It mostly concerned the speeding up of musical thought; the apparent changes in the music were not as radical as they at first appeared. But they were more than enough for Dance, who pulled the blinds down at the appearance on the scene of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and, as far as developments in the music were concerned, kept them down ever after. Additionally, since the best players of the Twenties had been black, Dance believed that this would always be the case.

In 1957 the bandleader Johnny Dankworth created an incident when, appalled by the showmanship and general hysteria of Lionel Hampton at a Royal Festival Hall concert, he shouted from his seat in the audience, "How about playing some jazz?" Dance's support in *Jazz Journal* of the black Hampton gave him the chance to clobber a white modernist in passing. He wrote: what we would like to know is whether Dankworth attended the [Stan] Kenton concert. If he did we heard to have the same question? If not, why not? We sat through the Kenton concert indignant and incredulous without bawling once, because we knew that in the audience there were several hundred jazzmen who had come long distances to hear the noise.

Kenton's music had far more depth and cerebral activity than the direct and raw passion of Hampton's, and hindsight suggests that Dance's assessment was diametrically wrong. However, a paragraph from him in the current edition of *Jazz Times* suggests that it never changed:

I liked Stan Kenton personally, but invariably found his music too grandiose and heavy to swing. It was no surprise when he made a Wagner album. Teutonic ambitions having cost me friends and relatives in two world wars, I was doubly prejudiced against such contrajazz ventures.

Later, when Dance travelled with Duke Ellington, closer to him than anyone else as he helped him with day-to-day matters and wrote continuously about the band's activities, the trumpeter Buck Clayton said to me, "Every time that Duke wanted a pee, Stanley was there to unzip his fly for him."

In 1964, when Earl Hines's career was at a low ebb, Dance persuaded some promoters to support three concerts by the pianist at the Little Theatre in New York. They were sensationally successful and as a result Hines, with Dance's support, resumed his rightful place at the head of the jazz pantheon. "I always say I'm an amateur manager," said Dance, but his guidance of Hines and Ellington was faultless. He was largely responsible for the surge of recordings by the two men, and contributed informed and enlightening notes to their albums. He had already won a Grammy Award in 1963 for his liner notes to the record set *The Ellington Era*.

His output of articles and books was breathtaking in size. Already a contributor to *Down Beat*, *Melrose*, the *New York Herald Tribune* and *Saturday Review*, he began to collect together his pieces in books such as *The World of Duke Ellington* (1970), *The World of Swing* (1974), *The World of Earl Hines* (1977), *The World of Count Basie* (1980), *The Night People* (1971), about the jazz trombonist Dizzy Wells, and *Those Swingin' Years* (the autobiography



Dance: 'Lightly and Politely'

David Radfern

phy of Charlie Burnett, which Dance helped to write, 1984). He won the Ascap-Deans Taylor Award in 1979 for his book *Duke Ellington in Person: an intimate memoir*, on which he had collaborated with Ellington's son Mercer. He had probably also been responsible for writing Duke Ellington's autobiography *Music is My Mistress*.

He wrote for the *American Jazz Times* from 1980 until his death, being in charge of the book review section. Many of the reviews were his own and because he was so well-informed, and because his writing style remained so vivid, it was not possible to detect any deterioration

in his skills. He was as eloquent as ever when he joined me for a BBC North radio programme last year. His love of his music and his insights into it shone through: he would have been an excellent broadcaster, had he turned his mind to it.

"When you get somebody like Stanley in your corner," said Earl Hines, "you're a very lucky fellow."

STEVE VOCE

Stanley Frank Dance, writer and record producer, born Braintree, Essex 15 September 1910; married 1947 Helen Oakley (two sons, two daughters); died Rancho Bernardo, California 23 February 1999.

هكذا في الأصل

Bacon: the rough guide

He always denied their existence. But do the drawings really dispel the myth of his paintings' spontaneity? By Tom Lubbock

Because something has been kept secret, needn't mean it holds a secret. Francis Bacon always said that he never drew; he only painted. But since his death in 1992 a lot of pictures have turned up that undermine this claim. Their value and status are still disputable and the smallish show at the Tate Gallery, Francis Bacon: Works on Paper, is, in some ways, premature. Still, the topic is obviously of note to anyone interested in Bacon, and this glimpse is worth catching. What sort of revelation it offers is another matter.

The drawings at the Tate are dated to about 1957-61. A good moment: Bacon was about 50 years old and - a late beginner - on the brink of what is now seen as his mature style. There are pencil sketches on paper, and oil-paint sketches on paper, and Biro sketches on paper. There are also a couple of examples of his drawings over photographs, where Bacon has taken a photo-reproduction from a book or a magazine and worked over it in paint, sometimes completely obliterating it, sometimes altering it only slightly.

Now, there's nothing here that could be called a finished drawing. Almost all of them are figure studies, quite loose sketches, generally involved with working out some body pose or - if that sounds too anatomically correct - some body shape. Some of them can be related, and quite closely, to paintings; some not. And though it would be presumptuous to say that they're just what you would expect Bacon's drawings to look like, I don't think anyone seeing them will get a big surprise, or say "wow, so that's how he drew".

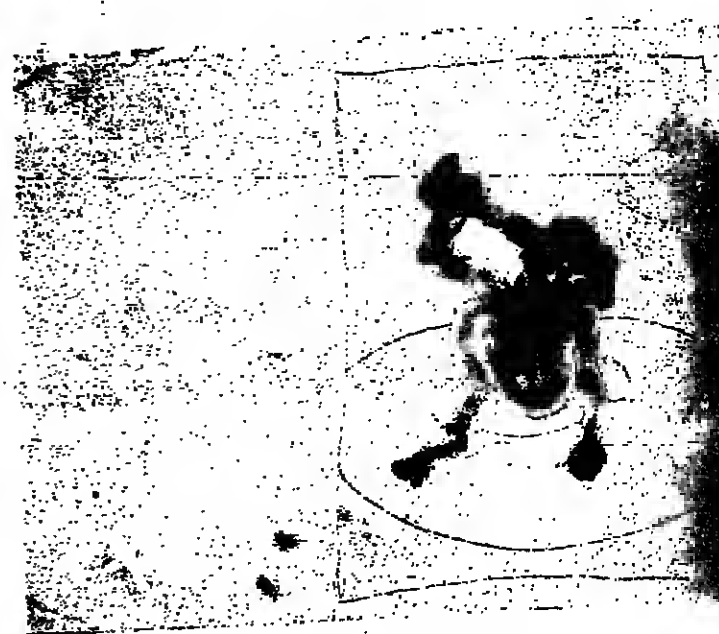
No. They figure. And as for the altered photos - well, they're interesting, because they show Bacon disrupting an existing image, and in his paintings he's often disrupting his own images - but they're almost not news. We know from photos of his studio and his interview with David Sylvester that he worked from, and among, torn-out and trampled-on photos - Eisenstein film stills, Muybridge motion studies, fine-art reproductions, natural history shots. The fact that he worked on them, too, doesn't seem such a big difference.

I don't say these drawings lack value or enlightenment. They're often graceful in the way that Bacon himself was graceful. They stress the cartoonish side of his art, which is always worth stressing. But I do say: if we'd known them all along, I don't think we'd now give them a lot of attention. And if you're looking for revelations, you have to see them in quite another way.

You may remember a TV programme on Channel 4 last year about a large haul of these drawings-over-photos, in the possession of a friend of the artist. They're not in this show. But these, it was said, the Tate had at one point taken an interest in - they were offered without charge, apparently - but then the gallery got cold feet, and the affair was made to sound mysterious and conspiratorial, as if the Tate wanted to hush up the very existence of these pictures.

The problem, I gather, is that another, non-Bacon hand had been detected in the pictures, and that made them dodgy. But now it's thought possible that this other hand belonged to Bacon's boyfriend of the time, and that the drawings aren't so much inauthentic as collaborative. Whatever value that might give them, it seems likely that many visitors will have seen the programme, and could do with more information here. All we get is a tiny mention in the catalogue - "substantial quantities of comparable material have recently been attributed to the artist" - a briskness that suggests the issue remains tricky.

The TV programme, of course, and others, too, have gone on to suggest that



Rough and ready: clockwise from main picture, 'Pink Crawling Figure', 'Figure with Foot in Hand' and 'Fallen Figure'

the existence of any Bacon drawings is more than tricky, it's damned awkward. It wasn't just that the old dog had been caught telling lies. No one could be surprised or shocked by that, as such. And it's not that Bacon mightn't have had good reasons for keeping his drawings quiet. As David Sylvester says in his preface, he probably didn't think they were much good in themselves, and he didn't want to encourage an irrelevant interest in his creative process, as opposed to his paintings.

Fine. But he may have had bad reasons, too. And what's suggested is that discovery of these drawings touches his paintings very damagingly. By denying them, Bacon was really trying to deny the fact that he had a creative process at all. For didn't he always claim to work in an entirely unplanned and quasi-random manner? And

doesn't the power of his art involve a sense of this spontaneity? But these studies and try-outs sink that story - and expose the painting as a kind of con. That's the dreadful secret they reveal.

Not quite. But it is a slightly difficult issue. I think the right answer goes like this. The above line of thought is quite wrong: the existence of the drawings damages the painting not at all. But on the other hand, Bacon himself probably believed something rather like that, and it was a reason for him to deny his drawings. After all, the Bacon myth, partly self-constructed, tends to picture the artist as fighting drunk, flinging himself and several pots of paint at the canvas. There follows a great Andy Capp-style dust-up, a cloud of energy with hands, brushes, rags, and sponges flying everywhere. At the end of it all, things

settle, and there on the canvas is the image - the skid-mark of the impact, so to speak.

What I'm getting at is that Bacon did half-want to elide the act of painting. There are all those vivid and memorable phrases in the interviews with Sylvester - about making images straight off his nervous system, or leaving a trail like a snail leaves its slime, or making images that didn't look as though they'd been interfered with. They don't all say the same thing, but the general idea is of images that emanate, materialise, just happen - sort of splurge themselves out of him.

And the thing is, you can half-believe it, too. Bacon's images do have paint skid-mark aspects, and the bodies he depicts have lost their boundaries and they blend into those skid-marks; and then you can imaginatively transfer this feeling on to the

painter's own body and its contact with the canvas. This, indeed, is the illusion the paintings often achieve. Bacon is careful to conceal any traces of too deliberated paint-work - and conceals them in the same spirit as he concealed his drawing.

But remember, it is an illusion, and he is careful. True, the paintings have randomly thrown splats of paint in them, and wild strokes, but they are incorporated very cunningly. This spontaneity is, unavoidably, a matter of work. And the existence of drawn studies should be no more of a revelation to us than the "revelation" that Bacon was an extremely skilful operator.

If you really wanted a posthumous revelation about Bacon's art, that would be its subject: Bacon's skills in operation, and operating in one particular area. For there's one notable omission from the

Tate's drawings. There are body studies, but there are no head or face studies. I suppose half Bacon's fame rests on what he did to heads and faces. Who wouldn't like to see how that was done? So the revelation I'm imagining is a hitherto undiscovered reel of film, close up on the middle of a Bacon canvas, showing the artist doing his first strokes, his solid modelling of forms and then his blur-smears, dissolves and sudden fade-outs, his chancy, flung blots and splashes and his seamless blending of them into the image, his finishing touches. Bacon-wise, I can't think of a more valuable or curious document. There's almost certainly no such thing. But you never know.

Francis Bacon: Works on Paper, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000). Daily to 2 May, admission free

Material witness

For George Kennethson sculpting in stone was like 'walking on a tightrope'. But his mastery of the medium kept him faithful, despite critical neglect. By Lesley Jackson

THE IRONY of George Kennethson's career as a sculptor was that, just at the point when he reached artistic maturity, his material - stone - went out of fashion. By the Fifties, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth had begun to work in bronze, and the new generation of British sculptors - Chadwick, Meadows, Butler, Paolozzi et al - worked almost exclusively in metal. The revival of direct stone carving in the Twenties and Thirties, although crucially important in the history of English sculpture, was all too brief.

Ever since the Second World War, the art world has become increasingly faddish. If an artist is even slightly out of sync with the latest trend, he or she is likely to be ignored. Such has been Kennethson's fate, although a new exhibition hopefully signals a turning-point.

Born in Richmond in 1910, Kennethson studied at the Royal Academy from 1929 to 1934. Although by this date the Modern Movement was well under way, teaching at the RA was still highly traditional. While appreciating the achievements of the Old Masters, Michelangelo in par-

ticular, Kennethson was equally interested in modern art, an appetite fuelled by exhibitions and the books of Herbert Read. Cézanne was a great hero, and among his contemporaries he particularly admired the stone carvings of Henry Moore.

Like many artists of the period, he became fascinated by African sculpture, while closer to home, medieval stone carvings fired his imagination. All these influences would later resurface in his sculpture. Although he excelled at drawing, it was sculpture he pursued on leaving the RA. On setting off at Uffington in Berkshire, near the Vale of the White Horse, he quickly achieved mastery over stone.

With his notebook full of dimensions for the sculptures he had in mind, he would travel to quarries far and wide to select choice pieces. Limestones such as Hornton, Clip-

sham and Purbeck were among his favourites, along with English alabaster. Nature provided lifelong inspiration, although, in his words, he was "enthralled by everything in the visual world".

His sculptures fall into two main groups, figures and landscapes, the latter expressed through abstract forms. The rhythms of the sea, and

the way it carved out the cliffs and the rocks on the coastline, fired his imagination. He was equally fascinated by people, the contours and rhythms of their features, and the relationship between these elements, which is why his figures are stylised rather than particular.

Kennethson worked in the great humanist tradition. Through art, he believed man could arrive at greater wisdom and understanding. He believed that it was the artist's duty to dig for truth and, above all,

to take risks. Carving in stone is the riskiest medium of all, because instead of adding, the artist creates by subtracting: the margins between success and failure are a matter of millimetres. "Being a sculptor," he said, "is like walking on a tightrope. You can fall off at any minute."

Because of the vagaries of fashion, his work was mostly overlooked, except by an independent-minded few. Among these was Jim Ede, the founder of the remarkable collection at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. He and Kennethson became great friends, and it was Ede who introduced him to the sculpture of Gaudier-Brzeska. As a result, Kettle's Yard (as well as the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art) is one of the few public collections in which Kennethson's work is represented.

Another person who appreciated his talents was the Sloane Street gallery-owner Madeleine Ponsonby (now known as Madeleine Bessborough), whose New Art Centre has flown the flag for British sculpture since the Sixties. The New Art Centre was one of the few galleries to show Kennethson's sculpture



Songs of stone: Kennethson was mostly overlooked apart from by an independent-minded few

during this period, and although it eventually closed in 1993, it has now risen, phoenix-like, in a new location - Roche Court, near Salisbury - with a beautiful, purpose-designed sculpture gallery created by Munkenbeck and Marshall.

Appropriately, it is at Roche Court that an exhibition of Kennethson's work can now be seen, a choice selection of both figurative and abstract works spanning his career. Having failed to appreciate his work, and the patronage of Jim Ede, first time

around, if the art world has any sense it will take notice now.

George Kennethson, the New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Garden, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire, 01980 882204. To 31 March

HEALTH



Since Hoffman developed it, numerous uses for aspirin have come to light

Drug of the century

In an age of super-pills, the best medicine of all is also one of the oldest. By Jeremy Laurance

Most people have a potent anti-cancer agent in the medicine cabinet at home, though few know it. They keep a heart drug at the back of the sock drawer, a fertility promoter buried in their handbag and a cognitive enhancer standing next to the salt pot in the kitchen.

The drug is aspirin, a chemical entity for which new uses are still coming to light 100 years after it was discovered. We know, of course, that it reduces aches and pains, and eases fevers in diseases such as flu. It is now also a standard treatment for heart attacks - take one immediately after calling 999. Tens of thousands of lives could be saved if this simple fact were better known.

It is being tested as a preventive agent against Alzheimer's disease, it has been shown to reduce the risk of stroke, and it can ward off cancer. Those who take it regularly have a 40 per cent reduced risk of dying of cancer of the oesophagus, stomach and bowel. Research also suggests it is effective against herpes and prostate cancer.

Aspirin can fairly claim to be the 20th century's broadest-spectrum medicine - the closest we have come to a miracle drug. Bayer, the German company that discovered it, has earmarked Monday 8 March as the official birthday, though there is some dispute about exactly when the centenary falls.

The company plans to wrap a 400-ft tower at its headquarters in Leverkusen, with the help of 50 Alpine mountaineers, to create the world's largest aspirin pack and earn itself a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Aspirin is derived from the salicin found in willow bark, and records date from 400BC, when Hippocrates recommended willow bark infusions to ease labour pains. Interest was revived in 1753 by the Reverend Edward Stone who was tempted to chew on the bark of the white willow while walking in a field near Chipping Norton. He may have been influenced by an old theory of medicines known as the Doctrine of Signatures. This held that the cure to a disease might be found in the same place as the cause. Fevers were believed to be aggravated by damp, and willows flourished in damp places.

Chewing the bark, Stone noticed that it tasted bitter, like 'Jesuits' bark', from a Peruvian tree, which was used as a painkiller and which we now know to contain quinine. He made an infusion of the willow bark and gave it to 50 people suffering from fever. It proved effective and Stone reported his results to the president of the Royal Society.

It was not until 1897 that Felix Hoffman, a German chemist working for Bayer, found a way to reduce the side-effects of salicylic acid, the active ingredient of willow bark, which included severe irritation of mouth, oesophagus and

stomach, by combining it with an acetyl group to make aspirin. Despite this advance, the new drug was dismissed by Heinrich Besser, the head of Bayer's Pharmacological Institute, as "typical Berlin hot air". Bayer's chairman intervened, after seeing the result of laboratory tests, and the rest is history.

Seventies and the newer drug now has 90 per cent of the analgesics market. But aspirin was about to undergo a renaissance that would lift it into a different class. Dr John Vane of the Royal College of Surgeons unlocked the secret of aspirin's mechanism, and opened up a vista of new therapeutic

Aspirin can fairly claim to be the closest we have to a miracle drug

By 1950 aspirin was the best-selling painkiller and in 1969 it went to the moon with Neil Armstrong aboard Apollo. But its mechanism was still a mystery. In 1966 *The New York Times* called it "the wonder drug that no one understands".

By then aspirin was being challenged by newer painkillers such as paracetamol and, later, ibuprofen. Paracetamol lacks aspirin's irritant effect on the stomach - severe in 6 per cent of the population - and sales rose rapidly. Both drugs are equally effective at reducing pain and fever but aspirin has an additional anti-inflammatory effect, like ibuprofen, and is better than paracetamol for sprains, cuts and bruises where swelling is involved. However, it should not be taken by children under 12 because of the risk of Reye's syndrome, a rare disorder that can cause delirium, convulsions and death.

Sales of paracetamol overtook those of aspirin in the late

opportunities. Dr Vane, whose work earned him a knighthood and a Nobel prize, discovered that aspirin works by inhibiting production of prostaglandins, hormone-like substances made in almost all the body's cells, which trigger pain signals to the brain. Prostaglandins are involved in many diseases. In heart disease, a prostaglandin-like substance called thromboxane promotes clotting. A single daily aspirin inhibits production of thromboxane, effectively reducing the blood's tendency to form clots, and cuts by a third the incidence of heart attacks in those at risk.

Aspirin's anti-inflammatory properties help the pain of arthritis and it was a chance observation that sufferers who took it had a lower incidence of Alzheimer's disease, which suggested the drug might have a protective effect on the brain. Now a 10-year trial of 400 men is about to start in Cardiff, run by the Medical Research Council, in which half will be given

Relief for restless legs

WHAT IS restless legs syndrome?
If you have an irresistible urge to move your legs, particularly at night, you may be suffering from this little known, but common, disorder. Symptoms of RLS are often described as burning, itching, pulling or tugging, and the only relief is to move the legs or walk around. A variety of drugs are used to treat the symptoms, but there is no test to diagnose it with certainty.

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

MY HUSBAND has been taking Tasmar for Parkinson's disease and it has dramatically improved his symptoms. But the drug has now been stopped because it is no longer available in this country, although I understand it is still available abroad. Is there any way of obtaining it?

Tasmar (also known by its chemical name tolcapone) has been withdrawn throughout the European Union by its manufacturers, Roche, following several deaths from acute liver failure. But the same drug is still being marketed in the United States, Switzerland and other countries, Roche says it is currently "working closely" with drug regulatory authorities and I think there is a possibility that the drug will be reintroduced with new recommendations about its use.

do not wish to catch it now. I am travelling to Central America soon and my guidebook says the incidence of measles there is increasing. Should I ask for the measles vaccine, or are there risks from that in itself?

There is no reason why you should not protect yourself from measles by having a vaccination before you set off. The measles vaccine is no longer available on its own, but you could have MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, which would have the added advantage of protecting you against all three diseases. There is no upper age limit for this vaccine, and a single dose should provide you with lifelong protection.

Please send your questions to *A Question of Health*, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail health@independent.co.uk

Dr Kavalier regrets he cannot respond personally to questions

I DIDN'T have measles as a child (I am 46) and

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OUR REF.

END 2/2/99

Dial for a diagnosis

SOME IDEAS are so simple and radical, and their promise so great, that you wonder why no one has thought of them before. Such is the proposal being considered by ministers for replacing GPs with nurses as patients' first point of contact.

Under this plan, if you think you need to see a doctor you will call a central NHS number where you will be able to talk to a nurse about your problem: the nurse will also book an appointment with your GP if necessary. Instead of dialling up the surgery and getting through to a frosty receptionist who may not offer you an appointment with the GP for 10 days, under this scheme you would get instant advice, and your appointment made for you.

As reforms of the NHS go, this would have a greater and more direct impact on patients than anything introduced in the last 50 years. But the reaction to it is interesting. Every friend and colleague I have put it to in the last couple of days has responded with outrage. It is a bad idea, they say, because it would undermine the personal relationship with the family doctor, it is clearly aimed at cutting costs by restricting access to GPs, and it would create huge NHS call centres in which patients would be known only by their serial numbers.

The contrast with the reaction of the professionals was striking. The British Medical

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

Association, fierce defender of the personal relationship between patients and GPs, was enthusiastic. It could result in patients being seen "more appropriately" by GPs, said Dr Simon Fradd, chairman of the Doctor Patient Partnership. The Patients Association was equally supportive. Its chairman, Claire Rayner, a former nurse, said: "There is no suggestion that people will be prevented from seeing their GP. What is being offered is instant advice and help, which will be infinitely more convenient."

But will the plan serve as a guide for patients, directing them to the most appropriate care (at home, with the GP or at the accident and emergency department), or will it in effect prevent them from obtaining the treatment they want?

The pilot scheme, to be run in Northumberland, will test how this is perceived. The NHS

Direct helpline service, on which it will be based, has proved hugely successful since its launch last year, but it is voluntary, running in parallel with the GP and hospital service.

NHS Direct nurses deal with telephone queries from patients following lists of questions drawn up by specialists. A survey has shown that 97 per cent of callers were satisfied, yet 40 per cent of them were advised to do something less than they had planned before they called, such as going to bed with a hot drink instead of calling out the GP. Twenty per cent were urged to do something more than they had planned.

Both the BMA and the Patients' Association are clear that free access to GPs on demand must be preserved. If that can be guaranteed, there could still be substantial savings for the NHS from the 40 per cent of people who are seeking only the reassurance they need to look after themselves at home.

The introduction of telephone banking was resisted by those who said it meant the end of a personal service. For patients with personal difficulties or chronic conditions who see their GPs regularly, advice from a nurse may not be what they want or need. But for those with unexplained clinical symptoms seeking advice, I suspect that telephone medical care will prove as popular as banking by remote control.

MEDIA

Associated's launch of *Metro*, available free at Underground stations, is an important test. By Paul McCannTHE
WORD
ON THE
STREET

IT IS hard to believe that the BBC thinks it would be sued for libel by *Guardian* editor Alan Rusbridger – after all, he's so often been on the receiving end of himself – so why did it edit out the funniest moment from the *What the Papers Say* Awards on Friday? As Mr Rusbridger went up to receive the Scoop of the Year award for his Peter Mandelson home loan story, a loud Yorkshire harrumphing could be heard from the audience. The cameras even focused in on the harrumpher, Paul Routledge, sitting next to the ex-spion doctor, Charlie Whelan. But cut was his audible heckle as Rusbridger departed the stage with his heavy prize. "You ought to get six months for larceny," shouted Mr Routledge, showing that despite *Mirror* editor Piers Morgan's peace-making with Rusbridger, *The Mirror's* political commentator still believes the Mandelson story was whipped from his book.

THERE IS no greater illustration of the media's ability to make much out of little than to compare the fuss about Routledge's book with the number of copies it has actually sold. According to *Book Track*, it managed 982 copies up to 20 February. It has had another 10 days since then, so it may have blazed a trail into four figures by now.

NICE TO know that some newspaper headline writers remain as unreconstructed as ever. "Gordon Brown's former girlfriend fights for her life" was the *Mail on Sunday's* headline over its Shena McDonald story. Ms McDonald has hosted *Channel 4 News*, *Right to Reply*, and *The Week in Westminster*, and is one of Britain's most respected political broadcasters. But being a woman, none of that is as important in defining her headline status as a relationship 20 years ago.

THE sight of Paul Dacre, editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, exploding with the fury of a revivalist preacher and ripping page proofs to shreds is a common one on the newsroom floor of the *Daily Mail*.

So when it happened three weeks ago few people took much notice. The next day's *Mail* was being remade in its usual way, it seemed. In fact, standing in the middle of the newsroom for all to see, Dacre was ripping up a dummy issue of *Metro*, Associated Newspapers' first newspaper launch for 17 years.

The destruction of the dummy effectively marked the end for Kim Chapman, formerly editor of the *Reading Post*, who arrived to edit *Metro* only last November. She was replaced as editor and offered the post of *Metro's* publisher, which she turned down, and then Dacre brought in some of his most trusted lieutenants from the *Daily Mail* to turn the paper around in time for its launch on 9 March. Alistair Sinclair, Dacre's deputy on the *Mail*, was given overall control of the project and Ian MacGregor, associate editor (news) and a rising star at the *Mail*, replaced Chapman as editor. Other executives drafted in from the *Mail* include Tim Jotischky, the paper's executive news editor.

What Chapman had failed to understand is that *Metro* is very much more than just a free regional newspaper for London.

Associated has highly successful newspapers, but it is still dependent on just three national titles. The cash generated by the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard* has not been used for company expansion, except for a few excursions into cable and new media. With the launch of *Metro*, Associated hopes to create a blueprint for a series of local free newspapers for Manchester, Newcastle and, perhaps, even New York.

It also gives it another way to tackle what Associated calls "the problem in London". Despite massive investment in new sections and price-cutting, sales of the *Evening Standard* are stubbornly stagnant. Associated needs *Metro* to protect its position in London from rivals who may be tempted by the same freeshoot idea.

The idea is not original. According to legend, the new Lord Rothermere, then known as humble Jonathan Harmsworth and deputy managing director of the *Evening Standard*, was in Stockholm on a bitterly cold day when he couldn't get a taxi, so he jumped on to a tram. There he saw all the other passengers reading a newspaper that came free from a display bin on the tram.

The paper was produced by Sweden's Modern Times Group, so Associated head-hunted one of its directors, Thomas Grahl, to bring the idea to London. Modern Times was planning its own launch in London but, crucially, Associated Newspapers got to London Underground first. It signed an exclusive 10-year contract that promises the Under-



Most people travelling on the tube are relatively upmarket and young – just the kind of readers 'Metro' is looking for. Kim Chapman (top right) was replaced as editor as Paul Dacre (middle). Associated's editor-in-chief took firm control of Lord Rothermere's project (bottom) UPPA/Reading Evening Post/Gavin Kent

ground about £1.5m a year if the paper is a success. It also gets a page a day in the newspaper to promote its services and apologise for signal failures on the Northern Line.

In return, Associated gets to place 1,000 newspaper bins in 261 stations on the Underground. It has bought access to many of the 2.7 million passenger journeys made every day on the Tube. Most of the people making those journeys are relatively upmarket and young – people who will be attractive to the advertisers Associated hopes will spend £13m a year on ads in *Metro*. As it tours advertising agencies, *Metro's* sales team is offering to refund advertisers' money if it does not hit a 90 per cent pick-up rate for its 350,000 print run.

The paper hopes to cash in not only on the arts and entertainment classified advertising that drives the *Standard*, but also on the relative dearth of colour display advertising sites in newspapers. Recent increases in production quality have driven many advertisers to demand colour pages in newspapers for their ads. Media buyers despair at the lack of availability of colour

pages to run their campaigns, so the all-colour *Metro* hopes to mop up some of this demand.

The media buyers who have seen the new dummies of *Metro* believe its quality means that it will destroy the *Evening Standard*. Yet Associated seems to have been forced to do it because it was terrified someone else would sign up the Underground.

In the world of fragmenting

transport get underway, the Underground can only become more attractive. The number of journeys on the Underground have increased by nearly 70 per cent since the early Eighties, and Associated has gambled that someone was eventually going to go for that audience.

What was wrong with Chapman's dummy *Metro* was that it looked like a regional newspaper – hardly surprising, given that it is to be a re-

gional newspaper, and was staffed and edited by regional newspaper journalists. The *Mail* troubleshooters found 22 relatively inexperienced reporters, working in very different conditions from those at Associated's West London HQ.

Metro has been deliberately sited in East London's Docklands, to avoid its being infected by the rest of Associated's culture of editorial largesse. Where the *Mail's* Saturday

Weekend section alone costs £150 a year, *Metro's* budget is less than £10m a year for a five-day operation.

The *Mail's* newsmen have quickly to turn *Metro* into what Dacre wants – a 40-page print version of GMTV, celebrity-heavy, middle-market and glamorous. It will be stapled to make it easy to read on the Tube, and its bite-sized stories should mean you can read all you want of it on a 20-minute journey.

The other important thing about *Metro* is that it is Lord Rothermere's first project. It has been his baby since the beginning, and is his opportunity to prove that he can step into his father's shoes. For Paul Dacre, *Metro* is important for reasons beyond its size and cost.

Dacre wants to prove that his partnership with this Lord Rothermere can be as successful as Sir David English's partnership with the

previous one. And then there is the question of the *Evening Standard*.

Ironically, London already had a "Metro" newspaper and it was published by Associated. For "Metro" was the name that appeared in the top right-hand corner of the first edition of the *Evening Standard* – an edition that was on the streets at 9am. It has now been renamed "News Extra". But still the *Standard* is worried. There is no question that Associated might want deliberately to damage its London paper; but given the frosty attitude that reportedly exists between Dacre and Max Hastings, the *Standard's* editor, there is probably at least some internal politics in Dacre's enthusiasm for the project.

The mighty house of Harmsworth is not going to live or die by the success of an £8m investment in a free newspaper for the Tube, but dynasties are at their shakiest after a succession. Dacre and his favourite sons from the *Daily Mail* back bench have a reputation for excellence. Now they have to prove it once again, so that the new Lord Rothermere can show that the dynasty is safe in his hands.

What Chapman had failed to understand is that 'Metro' is meant to be very much more than just a free regional newspaper for London

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Closing date March 12th 1999

-make the switch-

FT seeks German readers

ANALYSIS
JONATHAN MILLER

WALDEMAR SCHAEFER, joint editor of the German business daily *Handelsblatt*, did not sound especially nervous yesterday at the news that he would soon be competing against a German-language edition of the FT, complete with an English (but German-speaking) editor. He laughed: "Is there space for them? I think they are going to find the competition is very strong."

If anybody yet knows when the new paper will be launched, or even what it will be called, they are not saying. Yesterday, the FT finally confirmed the open secret that the German FT was a definite runner. The new details are: it is to be printed on pink paper, and published in a joint venture with Gruner & Jahr, publisher of the established *Capital* economic and business monthly, and a subsidiary of Bertelsmann, Europe's largest media group, and start-up costs are estimated at DM170m. Schaefer thinks it will cost twice that.

The FT and their German allies are entering a torrid market. New publications have been launching in a hurry to attract Germany's expanding new class of equity investors,

who have proven a hungry audience for business news. This year's launches have included Springer's *Europa am Sonntag*, a weekly newspaper, and the German regional press has also been bolstering business news coverage.

But the German FT will be the biggest launch so far and a test of both Pearson and Gruner & Jahr's ability to succeed with a testing cross-cultural and media joint venture. The newspaper is expected to be launched alongside a website which will be integrated with FT.com, the *Financial Times* Internet channel. It will be edited by Andrew Gowers, former deputy editor of the FT. It is expected to include both a strong business report as well as information orientated to investors, although this alone will not distinguish it dramatically from *Handelsblatt*.

The English-language FT has been published in Germany for more than a decade. But it still sells only around

20,000 copies a day, compared to 150,000 for *Handelsblatt*, published in Düsseldorf.

By reputation, Germans have not been excessively interested in business news, provided the mark in their pocket stayed strong. Their personal investments have traditionally been in boring, reliable bonds. But as the yields of fixed income investments have fallen, Germans have surprised many with the enthusiasm of their conversion to the joys of investing in shares. This has all recently been stimulated by the launch of the single European capital market denominated in the euro. The rush to serve this new market has in turn stimulated public interest. Publishers have swarmed to the honey pot.

English only takes you so far in Germany. Most Germans can make no more sense of an English-language newspaper than can most Britons cope with a weekly copy of *Stern* (also published by Gruner & Jahr). While the English-lan-

guage FT and the *Wall Street Journal* have been must-reads for bankers in Frankfurt and a handful of senior people, neither paper is relevant to most managers or investors.

Half the FT's English-language circulation in Germany is said to be a bulk sale to Luftansa. The new launch will be a test for *Handelsblatt*, quintessential organ of German capitalism. They are unlikely to prove a pushover. Its circulation has grown steadily but not spectacularly. Is it complacent in its market or ripe for new competition? Or are there only 150,000 people a day ready to buy a financial paper in Germany?

Pearson's objective is to command a portfolio of euro zone newspapers and web sites, including editions of the FT in English and German, *Les Echos* in France, and *Expansion* in Spain. But their start-up in Germany is more testing than the acquisition of established titles in France and Spain, which were simply a matter of establishing the right price. The FT's adventure in Germany will be a test of the pink 'un's fitness to rule business news in Euroland as it has in Britain.

Sexual pr
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Sexual prudes who decide the bottom line

ONLY THE foolish or the very young are opposed to all kinds of censorship. Parenthood, as I've learned, is a pretty continuous exercise in excision and bowdlerisation. So we parents tend to look upon censors as our allies in the task of keeping highly profitable mayhem from overwhelming us. The alternative is the three-year-old, thought to have been happily occupied in front of *Teletubbies*, who was discovered eating its Rice Krispies to the accompaniment of Johnny Wadd's impressive ejaculations. Societies that expose kids to pornography are bad societies. So, in contrast to my student self, I am in favour of regulation: of bodies like the ITC; of documents like the BBC's producers' guidelines; and of individuals like our own Andreas Whittam Smith. Someone, after

all, has to take a view on what is and what isn't kosher. And please spare me all the guff about "who are they to tell us what we can and cannot watch?". Civilisations have rules. You don't want rules? Go and live in Chechnya; watch all the porn you like, and open your post to find your mother's ear and a ransom note. But I draw the line at the Broadcasting Standards Commission. This is the group of worthies collected together to investigate and to rule upon complaints submitted by members of the public. These may concern mistreatment at the hands of programme-makers, or may be about Mr Pootie's horror at being confronted by gay sex on his TV screen. In the latter sense, the BSC resembles nothing so much as a strange cross between *The Daily Telegraph's* letters



Censorship can be a good thing, argues David Aaronovitch, but not when led by public opinion

page and Sam Spade. With its entirely retrospective function, it is an institutional locker of stable doors after the horses have mated. Its usefulness as an arbiter of decency may be judged by how the BSC handled a complaint about the edition of *This Morning* with Richard and Judy of 16 October 1998. As the Commission succinctly put it in its latest bulletin, "a viewer complained about nudity and simulated sex". Since *This Morning* is transmitted some time between eleven and lunch time on ITV, it is an

unusual vehicle for explicit material. So what happened? A man took his clothes off (though he apparently "kept his genitals covered"), and assaulted the al fresco weatherman by pretending to throw him into the water. I should explain that this particular forecaster usually stands on a floating polystyrene map of Britain. A viewer. No genitals. No simulated sex. Not much of a case, you would have thought. Wrong. The commission concluded that, "while the man's actions had not been sexually explicit, the level of nudity had

been unacceptable for the time of transmission". The BSC officially stamped the complaint "Upheld". What on earth was meant by "the level of nudity"? What are "acceptable" nudity levels, anyway? And acceptable to whom? If the man's genitals were invisible, was it his bottom that we were worried about? And who cannot "accept" bare bottoms at 11am? I bet that if they were African bottoms on a safari programme then no one would be complaining. This is provincial prudery of an antique sort. The commissioners are the sort of people who change their swimming costumes under layers of towelling rather than offend an apathetic world with a microsecond's flash of greying public hair. There are 12 commissioners (of whom nine are women), including two Ladies, a

Reverend, a Dame, a CBE, an OBE and a CB (whatever that is). It would be too easy to take the mickey out of the chairman, Lady Howe. But we may be allowed to speculate that a woman in her sixties, married to an uncharismatic former chancellor of the exchequer, may be out of touch with those whose hormones still rage, and whose relationships are highly charged. But there again, it is possible, for aught we know, that Howe Towers makes the House of the Rising Sun look restrained. Anyway, the difficulty with the BSC may be more to do with its function than its membership. It is there to adjudicate on complaints, not to take a proper view of what is good and bad on television. So it is always the letter-writing prudendaphobes whose laments are being considered. Very few people put

pen to paper (as well we might) to argue that there is in fact too little proper sex on television, and that "nudity levels" are far too low. There are no erections (even late), almost no masturbation (despite its universality), and very little good foreplay. Instead, we get endless programmes on the commodification of sex: male strippers, prostitution, sex shops, pornography, and leering teens on drunken holidays in Corfu. These shows have practically replaced proper current affairs altogether, yet there is barely a whimper from the BSC, which is too busy going on about nudity. Good censorship, I think, is about reflecting public opinion, not about reflecting it. Indeed, this rule is true of good anything. It's a lesson that needs relearning.

When Robin Cook was asked about attitudes to Germany on 'Today' it made headlines. But was it a fair question? By Rod Liddle

Sorry to mention the war

Guilt has gnawed away, has done its work at night. For a week now, the last thing I've seen before sleep brings its merciful release is the Foreign Secretary hovering above me, baleful, hurt and - worse than these things - unquestionably in the right. He's kept me awake each night and now the time has come to wash my hands, and to speak the truth. It's worth doing so in public because Robin Cook's disagreement with the *Today* programme last week is part of a much wider debate - about news management, spin doctors, interview techniques and even the role of the BBC.

It began with Michael Naumann, the German Culture Minister, suggesting that Britain had made victory in the Second World War its "spiritual core"; that, in effect, we were an obsessed people. On the morning that these comments were reported, amid much outrage in Britain, we were due to talk to the Foreign Secretary about an arguably rather loftier issue - the launch of the Government's "great" foreign policy for foreign-policy-with-a-green-dimension.

Towards the end of the interview our presenter Nick Robinson, at my request, asked Mr Cook for his views on Herr Naumann's thesis. His response was impeccably apologetic, weighed in at a succinct 11 seconds and was along the lines of: "I haven't mentioned the war in meetings with my German counterparts, and I won't do so in future." I'm paraphrasing, but that was the gist - pretty harmless stuff.

The Foreign Office, however, was

seething, in so far as press officers can be said to seethe. Why had we diverged from our arrangement? Why hadn't we cleared the question with the Foreign Secretary? Outrageous behaviour, they raged, civilly. I was inclined to laugh it off. What was the problem, after all? The programme surely must have some leeway when talking to the Foreign Secretary about what was, after all, a subject directly within his remit. And the response was bland enough. Eleven seconds, however, is a long time in politics. Three hours later, the news agency wires had headlined the story "Cook Backs Down over Germans". I felt a brief spasm of contrition, but even then I hadn't expected the following day's coverage.

Next morning, the Foreign Secretary rang himself, in person, to share with me *The Star's* story headlined "Hell keep quiet!". He then moved to page one of *The Daily Telegraph*, where his 11-second response had been spread across four columns (plus editorial comment on page 23). *The Mirror*, meanwhile, began its account: "Basil Fawlty's catch phrase 'Don't mention the war' became official Government policy yesterday..." Mr Cook was irate, but still remarkably polite.

The galling thing for me was that he had predicted this very outcome the previous day, which I had laughed off as political over-sensitivity. After all, he couldn't possibly have answered the question in a blander, less controversial manner. I mean, even if Bill Cash were foreign secretary I doubt that he'd talk about the war very often during discussions with his German counterpart. And only then under his breath.



Robin Cook's comment on Britain's obsession with the Second World War was blown out of all proportion by the press

Paul Hackett

But this was Robin Cook's point: that he couldn't possibly have answered the question at all without landing himself in hot water.

If he'd voiced my own response to Herr Naumann's comments - that we talk about the war just about enough, but that we should do so more loudly and with a thinly veiled aggression when German politicians tell us we shouldn't - then there would be an entertaining diplomatic incident, apologies and the whiff of resignation. There was, simply, nothing he could have said.

All Robin Cook wanted was advance notice of the subjects to be discussed during our interview; not the questions themselves, mind, just the areas of debate. Our response on these occasions is to harp on and talk about editorial independence, and refuse to enter into negotiations. But things are changing, and perhaps we should change with them. We talk about public accountability and the right of chal-

lenging programmes such as *Today* and *The World at One* to have access to Government ministers on important issues. At the same time, we are experiencing news management from the Government which is subtler and more successful than at any time I can remember. In a crude sense this Government is

politicians are less frequently made available at the crucial times. We may receive 10 offers of government ministers launching comparatively small-change programmes, which very often they launched six months before, but they are mysteriously absent when accused of a policy U-turn, or involved

and that this allows the Government to draw a line under what would have been a difficult issue. The next time that the minister is made available it may be on a much softer issue - we are back to the policy initiatives. We on *Today* still think the policy initiatives are important and deserve a public forum, but there are times

icians, with ourselves, and with the audience. Offering Robin Cook the chance to refuse to take a question about Herr Naumann offers us the option as to whether or not we should run the interview. Of course, in this instance we would.

There are other occasions when we wouldn't - and we should tell the audience when that happens. The spin doctors should look on it as a welcome adoption of the moral high ground; we'll be straight with you, but in return we expect to be able to examine, with rigour, ministers on thorny areas that they may not wish to confront in public. And when they refuse to answer, or appear, we should explain to the audience why. In the meantime, instead of shedding responsibility and blaming the Press when *Today* programme quotes get taken out of context, I apologise to Robin Cook.

The writer is editor of Radio 4's *Today* programme

I won't mention the war, says Cook

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, tried to assuage German sensitivities yesterday by promising that he would not harp back to the

and I can give an undertaking that we won't," said Mr Cook.

by Oskar Lafontaine, the German finance minister, for the harmonisation of taxes

more open than the last; we do not lack access to ministers, or to Downing Street. This Government is of-fensive in its relationships with the press rather than defensive. In fact, we carried six interviews with the Prime Minister in 1998, more than in any previous year - but there is the growing feeling that the crucial

in a disagreement with colleagues, or party to financial shenanigans. Can you remember a single interview on *Today* - or *Newsnight* or *The World Tonight* - with Geoffrey Robinson, ever?

There is a feeling at these difficult times that they will appear on programmes that are less challenging,

when it is less in the Government's interest for us to talk to ministers, and this is when the shutters come down. Not all Government departments are alike; it would be hard to find a more open minister than Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. And perhaps that's where we need to be clearer with the polit-

MPs making the most out of Fleet Street

The latest register shows that more politicians are trying their hands at journalism. By Paul Waugh

LAST MONDAY, at the height of the furore over Jack Straw's injunction on the Lawrence report, the House of Commons witnessed a strange and surreal spectacle - a leading Tory MP flaunting his membership of a trade union. Sir Norman Fowler, Mr Straw's shadow, yelled across the despatch box a declaration that was as passionate as it was unfashionable: "I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for the past 35 years."

Though Labour MPs emitted a collective "Oooh!" of mock admiration, it wasn't long before Gerald Kaufman was attempting to outflank Sir Norman with a similar boast of his membership of the NUJ. They may abhor the tactics, impulses and downright doggedness of the Fourth Estate, but the link between politicians and the press is clearly as strong today as it ever was.

Evidence of the increasing symbiosis between Westminster and those dismissed by former Chan-

cellor Nigel Lawson as "teenage scribblers" is revealed in the new Register of Members' Interests.

Down among the minutiae of declarations of gifts are to be found a series of entries from MPs proving that most are glad to take the shilling of Murdoch, the Mirror Group, *Accountancy Age* magazine, and indeed anyone else who will have them.

The majority of MPs simply refer to "occasional income from journalism" without specifying the media outlet they most favour, or the amount received. However, the register shows that some members make a very nice earner out of the tawdry trade.

Joint top of the wages league are the formidable Tory Ann Widdecombe and Labour's "Gorgeous" George Galloway, both of whom have suffered at the hands of the

tabloids. The two MPs each rake in up to £55,000 a year by penning articles for newspapers. Two other high-earners are Frank Field, who gets up to £20,000 a year, and Alex Salmond, who earns around £15,000. Such sums may appear large, but the all-time record for MPs' earnings

from journalism is still held by Lord Hattersley, a regular columnist with *The Guardian*, who in the 1997 register confessed to receiving up to £10,000 a year.

The green benches are littered with those who swapped one form of hackery for another. Michael

Foot entered the Commons on the back of editorships of both the *London Evening Standard* and *Tribune*; Sir Norman Fowler was a reporter on *The Times*; Ben Bradshaw and Martin Bell worked for the BBC; Yvette Cooper at *The Independent*; Julie Kirkbride was a lobby

correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*; and Martin Linton wrote for *The Guardian*.

The pattern is repeated in government, with the Trade and Industry Ministers Brian Wilson and Michael Wills, the Welsh Secretary Alun Michael, and last but not least, the Spintmeister himself, Peter Mandelson, who famously earned his chabatta crusts at LWT alongside John Birt.

The traffic until recently has almost always been one way, with Parliament somehow seen as an elevation from the grubby trade, but now an increasing number of MPs have spotted that they can make a decent living as columnists, diarists and even TV presenters should they ever end up on the dole. Matthew Parris, the former Tory MP, has made a highly successful transition to become *The Times'* Commons

sketch writer, while Michael Portillo has made a series of films for Channel Four.

Lord Hattersley stresses that there is a distinction between professional journalists who return to their first love and those MPs who simply try their hand at it occasionally. "I actually regret that there are so few genuine writing MPs because politics and literature ought to go together," he said. "I think if they're good at it, the public don't like it. What the public don't like is politics - trading on their fame and little else. Ken Baker's book on Conservative poets was an embarrassment and a flop. But if MPs can earn a bit of money from it, they will. It keeps them off the streets, I suppose."

Maybe the reason for the switch over to journalism as a fall-back career is hidden in the frequent opinion polls that MPs read. They show that journalists are truly loathed by the public, but that they hate politicians the most.

THE TOP EARNERS FROM JOURNALISM

Stuart Bell (Lab. Middlesbrough) Regular column for *Mail on Sunday* financial section. Up to £15,000. Regular article for *Accountancy Age*. Up to £5,000.
Patrick Cormack (Con. South Staffs) Editor of *House Magazine*. Up to £15,000.
Roseanna Cunningham

(SNP Perth) Weekly column for the *Scottish Mirror*. Up to £20,000.
Frank Field (Lab. Birkenhead) Regular column for *Sunday People*. Up to £20,000.
George Galloway (Lab. Glasgow Kelvin) Regular column, *Mail on Sunday*. Up to £55,000.

Alex Salmond (SNP Banff and Buchan) Weekly racing column, *The Herald*. Weekly column in *News of the World*. Up to £15,000.
Ann Widdecombe (Con. Maidstone and the Weald) Six programmes for Channel 4. Up to £15,000. Weekly column for the *Sunday Express*. Up to £40,000 for six months.

Michelin honours poetic chef of Auvergne

A SELF-TAUGHT chef who finds inspiration – and wild herbs – while running in his native hills in the southern Auvergne won the highest accolade in French cookery yesterday.

By JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

Michel Bras, 52, was given the coveted third Michelin star for his mountain-top, hotel-restaurant near Laguiole, 3,700ft up in the Aveyron hills of south-western France.

His elevation by the 1999 Michelin Guide marks a – possibly deliberate – turning away from the globe-trotting, superstar chefs who have made the gastronomic news in France in recent years. Mr Bras, who learnt cooking mostly from his mother, specialises in elaborate versions of regional dishes and rarely strays from home territory.

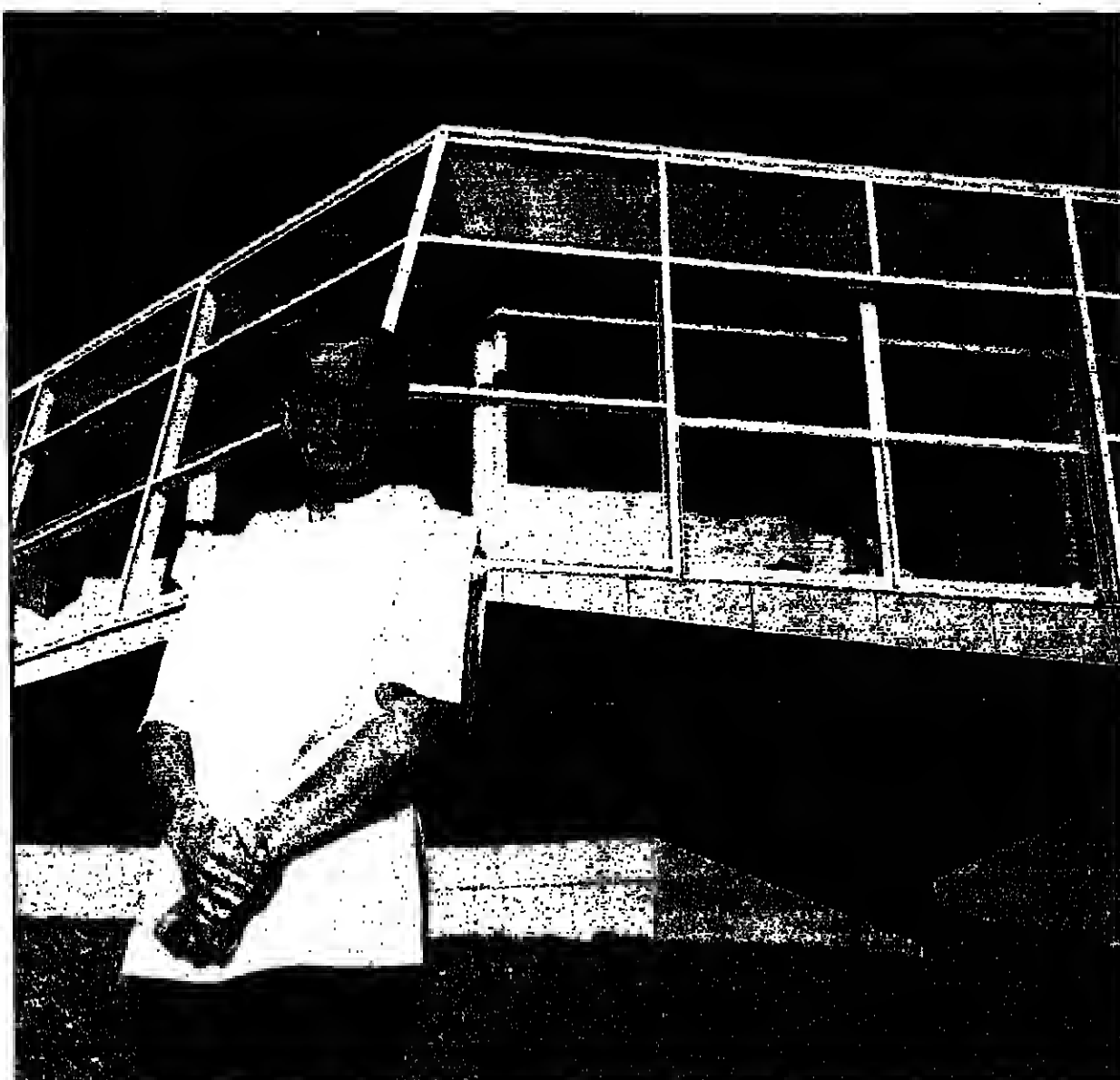
Respected and given to poetic utterances, Mr Bras is known, to his annoyance, as the “herbalist” of French cooking. His use of wild and unusual plants, such as meadow-sweet, started a

herbal trend among better-known, and more expensive, restaurants in the big cities.

“I run several times a week in the mountains and it is from these runs that I harvest ideas and emotions,” he said last week, when news of his probable ennoblement by Michelin leaked out. “That’s how I discovered meadow-sweet. I still clearly remember the circumstances of this encounter – the sky, the light and that leaden scent, heavy with honey.”

Mr Bras is best known for two dishes, “Biscuit de chocolat coulant” (Biscuit of melted chocolate) and “Gargouille de jeunes légumes” (which means, literally, a gurgling or bubbling of young vegetables). His restaurant maintains the informality of a country inn: customers are invited to clean their knife and fork on a piece of bread between courses.

Prices, although hardly cheap, are reasonable com-



Michel Bras, whose restaurant near Laguiole, south-western France, has joined the Michelin elite

pared with those of most two- or three-star restaurants. A lunchtime menu, eaten while enjoying panoramic views over the hills, costs £22. A dinner menu costs £55.

Mr Bras bemoans the cost of gastronomic meals in the swankier, Michelin-starred restaurants in large cities, which charge up to £150 a

head for their cheapest menu. By finding his inspiration in nature, Michel Bras says he hopes to express through his food “a climate, a freedom of expression, a sense of wonderment, a joie de vivre”. He compares his cooking to jazz “for its architecture... its fluid elegance, its silences”.

More prosaically, he says he learnt to love food at the kitchen table during his childhood. If he wasted a piece of bread, he would be rapped across the knuckles.

He joins 20 other three-star restaurants in France. No other chef was promoted to the premier division this year, but one, Marc Meneau, of the L'Esperance at Saint-Père-

sous-Vézelay was demoted to two stars. Britain has the same three, three-star restaurants as last year.

The main innovation of this year's guide, published tomorrow, is the inclusion of 50 Paris restaurants in the category of inexpensive but wholesome regional restaurants, marked by a small Michelin man.

At last, a good hairdresser

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE

SINCE LAST August's economic crash, some Russians have had the faith and courage to launch new businesses. It would be an exaggeration to say the spring of recovery has arrived. Rather, a few ventures are tentatively emerging like snowdrops pushing up from under snow.

Of two in the Samotechny Lane area, one is a new hairdressing salon. Before Alexander opened “Persona Lab”, we all used to go to Aunt Lyuda's. She may have been a wizard at dyeing the beehives of the local female trolley-bus drivers. But she always made a mess of my simple bob. Then I would go to some flashy haunt of the New Russians and pay \$100 (555) to have my hair “corrected”. Outrage at the price, however, would mean that next time I was back with the trolley-bus drivers, trusting my hair to the cheap and cheerful Lyuda.

Alexander now offers an exit from that vicious circle. Just before Christmas, he opened a salon giving the kind of cuts he learnt while studying in London, at prices that middle-class Russians, at least, can afford. He economised on decor – the walls are white – to concentrate on stylish cutting. “Everything was overblown before,” he said. “Who could afford those inflated prices?” Now he has a steady stream of clients, able to pay the equivalent of \$30, and is feeling optimistic.

Further down the road is Belinda. It used to be the biggest supermarket in the area and, frankly, was a bad joke. You had to be a masochist to shop there. The prices for the imported groceries were astronomical, yet the service was positively abusive.

When the rouble plunged, a funny thing happened. For two short weeks in September, Belinda, which still had stocks at old prices, became the cheapest shop in the area. Word spread quickly. Poor housewives flocked there to stock up on rice and macaroni

and try, perhaps for the first time, more exotic items such as pâté de foie gras. When the last goods were sold off, Belinda went out of business. Since then, a lot of renovation has been going on. Last week, Italian leather sofas went in. Then shelves with cheap mugs, washing powder and shampoo appeared. What was going on?

I walked in. A young assistant called Dima greeted me with a smile. In the back, I met Maria Belova, the equally welcoming manageress. “Down boy,” she commanded the black alsatian at her side. He was not a guard dog, she said, but a stray she had found injured and adopted. The atmosphere in the shop had certainly become friendlier.

What gave Ms Belova, who used to work in a Russian jewellery factory and also lived for a while in London, the confidence to open her own store after other entrepreneurs had been bitten? “We can't just sit and accept that our country is going down the drain. We have to try again.”

Ms Belova, smart in a black and white hound-tooth checked suit, said lessons had been learnt from the crisis: “Businesses should not try to make too much money too fast. They should deal with reliable partners. And they should be flexible.”

She went on to explain how she was creating a mini-department store, with a range of goods from expensive furniture to the cheapest household items. “We will watch and see what is popular. Later we might concentrate on one thing or another.”

So far, customers are looking at the sofas as if they were museum pieces but they are snapping up the floral mugs at 60 roubles (£2) each. “International Women's Day is coming up on 8 March,” said Ms Belova. “For husbands wanting a change from the regulation three red tulips, the mugs make nice little presents for their wives.”

HELEN WOMACK

Kosovar villagers flee Yugoslav military

YUGOSLAV SOLDIERS and police appear to be clearing villages in Kosovo along the border with Macedonia of their Albanian inhabitants.

About 5,000 villagers, fearing military attack, have fled their homes in the past few days, seeking refuge across the border with friends and neighbours. Many, however, are camping outdoors within the

By EMMA DALY in Gajre

borders of Kosovo. In one gully, women and children waited as their men cut down branches for temporary shelters.

The group of 300 had come from the village of Gajre, close to the main road leading south from the province's capital, Pristina, to Macedonia. They

were preparing to spend a second night in the snow. Back in the village, rebel fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) patrolled the streets, but few civilians remain. Ismet Calaku, who returned yesterday to find the body of his brother – presumably shot dead by Yugoslav forces attacking the village – said: “Where can we go? Do you think we are safe anywhere?”

Further north, near the village of Velika Hoca, international mediators succeeded in preventing a feared attack by the Serb security forces, after the murder of a Serb civilian. KLA members yesterday handed over the body of the Serb, who was taken hostage last week. They released his companion, who had been badly beaten.

The exchange was negotiated by verifiers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Both Serbs were from Velika Hoca, a Serb enclave on a hill held by the KLA. The two were kidnapped after the seizure last week of three Albanians, two of whom were found dead yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who begins a three-day visit to Russia today, will attempt to persuade Moscow to contribute troops to Kosovo – something seen as a crucial ingredient in securing acceptance by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, of a foreign peace-keeping force. But Mr Cook will have to overcome Russian hostility to the overall Nato command of the force demanded by alliance members, led by the US.

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مكتبة من الأدب

NEW FILMS

LOVED (15)

Director: Erin Dignam
Starring: Robin Wright Penn, William Hurt
Erin Dignam's *Loved* has been collecting dust on distributors' shelves for nearly two years now. Not because it's bad, one imagines, but because it's so subtly unclassifiable, so removed from the stock methods of tackling its volatile subject matter. Robin Wright Penn stars as an abused ex-girlfriend (called upon by William Hurt's lawyer to testify against her brutal former boyfriend. Yet *Loved* deliberately evades the hectoring quality that fuels so many TV movies. Instead, it paints charged and troubled relationships for what they are: complex, personal and inextricably entwined.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

PAINTED ANGELS (15)

Director: Jon Sanders
Starring: Kelly McGillis, Brenda Fricker
The angels are whores; the paint from the gloomier end of the palette. Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand in hand with Gerald Packer's evocative visuals, though the downbeat handling makes it slow going at times.
West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

PERDITA DURANGO (18)

Director: Alex De La Iglesia
Starring: Sean Penn, Nick Nolte
Alex De La Iglesia's quasi sequel to David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* is a strutting Tex-Mex caper, tequila-ed to the gills and running on a kind of posturing wackiness. Rosie Perez acquires herself well as the vixenish heroine who abducts a pair of all-American virgins, while *Live Flesh*'s Javier Bardem simply glowers from beneath a comedy wig. It's camp, garish and annoyingly entertaining.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

Director: Terence Malick
Starring: Sean Penn, Nick Nolte
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Odeon Leicester Square

TITANIC TOWN (15)

Director: Roger Michell
Starring: Julie Walters, Nuala O'Neill
All aboard for Troubles-hit Belfast, circa 1972. The IRA and British forces are taking potshots at each other. Civilians are dying in the crossfire. Julie Walters's local mum lobbies for a ceasefire and is caught between the opposing factions. Michell's fact-based fable is well-intentioned, but it's faintly lightweight, too. For a film implicitly about rage, waste and human passions, it's low on dramatic oomph.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema

URBAN LEGEND (18)

Director: Jamie Blanks
Starring: Jared Leto, Alicia Witt
As 1978's *Halloween* spawned a crop of shabby wannabes, so Wes Craven's *Scream* is sowing its own breed of movie runts. Enter *Urban Legend*, Blanks's stalk-and-slash romp, which clones *Scream*'s tics, twists and in-jokes in much the same way that its campus killer mimics the crimes of popular myth. The result is strangely bland and inconsequential.
West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Director: Nora Ephron
Starring: Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan
Riffing off her earlier, more assured *Sleepless in Seattle*, Ephron ushers seasoned pros Hanks and Ryan through a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rite by a shrewd Internet plot hook. Hanks and Ryan squabble in daily life and get all goopy on-line, resulting in a brew that is soft, sludgy and just slightly on the turn.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

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THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Thin Red Line (15)
Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a bugly ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG)
Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that it is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)
Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Antz*, this animated feature (right) spins an enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

Affliction (15)
Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Toast
(Royal Court at The Ambassador's, London)
So you thought that the comic fascination of a mass-production bakery in 1970s Hull was somewhat limited? Richard Bean's delightfully funny play proves you wrong. To 6 Mar

Copenhagen
(Duchess Theatre, London)
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation (right). To 7 Aug

Oklaohoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London)
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Hushabye Mountain
(Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton)
Dying of AIDS and living with AIDS: Jonathan Harvey's witty, sad and uneven new play looks at the disease in two eras. To 6 Mar



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)
He lived until 1926. The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism (right). To 18 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite *mélanges* of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)
The modern-object world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range - notably, those fat, lacunar outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket, Edinburgh)
Two painters collaborate. Doig's sizzling, curdling, overloaded landscapes mix with Krisanamis's collages of cultural detritus and doodles. To 27 Mar

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)
Drawings, prints and posters from the short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthetic and illustrator, with uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly
Crus/Leicester Square
8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My Name Is Joe 6.20pm, 8.40pm
8.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)
• Piccadilly Circus/Hamilton
The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 6.15pm
Painted Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
There's Something About Mary 3.35pm, 8.20pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) • Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road
12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
6.05pm, 8.30pm, 10.50pm
4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus/Barbican
6.45pm, 9.10pm, 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham
Court Road
12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus/Barbican
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TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo Whiley, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 8.00 Steve Lamacq, the Evening Session, 10.00 Digital Update, 10.30 John Peel, 12.00 The Breakfast, 2.00 Olive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Juliet Morris, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits, 8.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00 To Mother with Love: The Story of the Tatoo, 10.00 The Directors, See Pick of the Day, 10.30 Richard Ainsworth, 12.00 Lynn Parsons, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(92.4-92.9MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 12.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, A concert given last October at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by Jean-Yves Thibaudaud (piano), introduced by Chris de Souza. Debussy: Brouillards; Feuille morte; La puerie du vin; Les fées sont des créatures denses; Bruyères; Feux d'artifice (Preludes, Book 2); Ravel: Pavane pour une infante défunte; J'aurai; Le tombeau de Couperin, 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, 4.00 Voices, 4.45 Music Machine, 5.00 In Tune, 7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the Royal Festival Hall, London. Ensemble InterContemporain, Philharmonie de Paris, Pierre Boulez, Schoenberg: Chamber Symphony No. 1; Weber: Five Pieces for Small Orchestra, Op. 10; Schoenberg: Lied der Waldberta (Gurrelieder), 8.35 Pierre Boulez, Pierre Boulez is one of the few musical thinkers who have actually had the pleasure of seeing their dreams translated into reality. Here, he talks about the Cité de la Musique, IRCAM, and his vision of the future of musical performance, 8.35 Concert, part 2. Mahler: Rück-

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS: Unreliable Evidence, 9.30 Home Thoughts, 9.45 Serial: Zarafa, 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS: Nature, 11.30 Coming Alive, 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 My Mistress Music, 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry. See Pick of the Day, 8.35 Concert, part 2. Mahler: Rück-

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE ARE echoes of Alan Bennett in the Afternoon Play (2.15pm RA), Char March's monologue "People Come Here to Cry". It deals with Deborah, a middle-aged woman who visits her local crisis centre to receive counselling for an undisclosed problem. The pain is presumably supposed to seep through the determinedly brisk observations but it's the soulful performance

of Sue Johnston's (right) that stops you weeping in disbelief. In The Directors (10pm R2), Nora Ephron, the wisecracking first lady of romantic comedy, talks about her debt to her mother, Phoebe, and her non-macho approach to movie making - a good cappuccino machine for the crew can make all the difference, apparently. DOMINIC CAVENTISH



ert-Lieder, Schoenberg: Variations for orchestra, 9.30 Postscript, 2: One Island, two islands: how does culture differ in Dublin and Belfast? Joa Farrell talks to Declan Kiberd and Terence Brown, 9.55 Britten-Pears Ensemble. With Iain Burnside (piano), Prokofiev: Overture on Hebrew Themes, Martin: Piano Quintet, Johann Strauss (son), arr. Schoenberg: Emperor Waltz, (R), 10.45 Night Waves. Reclusive film director Terence Malick returns after a 20-year absence to direct 'The Thin Red Line', a film based on James Jones's bestselling novel of the Pacific War. And journalist Andrew O'Hagan talks to Richard Coles about his first novel, 'Our Fathers', the story of a dying man's relationship with his grandson, 11.30 Jazz Notes, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Copland, (R), 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS: Unreliable Evidence, 9.30 Home Thoughts, 9.45 Serial: Zarafa, 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS: Nature, 11.30 Coming Alive, 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 My Mistress Music, 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.15 Afternoon Play: People Come Here to Cry. See Pick of the Day, 8.35 Concert, part 2. Mahler: Rück-

3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0870 010 0444, 3.30 First Nights, (R), 3.45 This So-called Life, 4.00 NEWS: The Learning Curve, 4.30 Show Talk, 5.00 PM, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 Merton, 7.00 NEWS: The Archers, 7.15 Front Row, Francine Stock chairs the arts programme. She meets Andrew O'Hagan - acclaimed author of the non-fiction book 'The Missing' - who has just finished his first novel, 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Sean Baker, Rachel Atkins and Marian Kemmer, Director Peter Leslie Wild (12/30), 6.00 NEWS; Film on 4, 8.40 In Touch: Peter White with news for visually impaired people, 9.00 NEWS; Virus - The Unseen Enemy. Infectious diseases which predated the emergence of humans will last as long as humanity itself and will remain one of the fundamental determinants of history. James Edelman presents a programme examining the life of the virus and man's struggle to contain it. 1: 'The Darwinian Struggle for Life'. A cold may make life miserable, but for the virus it is a matter of life and death, 9.30 Unreliable Evidence. Clive Anderson cuts through the jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses the legal system. Family Law, 10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary - The Sun Also Rises. John Sharman reads Hemingway's acclaimed novel, whose protagonist, Jake Barnes, speaks for the Lost Generation of men and women drifting through a shattered Europe after the First World War. Lonely and lovesick, Brett turns hopelessly to Jake as a dissolute night continues (2/10), 11.00 NEWS: The Alan Davies Show. A sitcom starring Alan Davies, with Alan Francis and Ronnie Ancona as his long-suffering friends Murray and Kate. (R), 11.30 Talking Pictures, 12.00 News, 12.30 The Late Book: Stories by Anton Chekhov, (R), 12.45 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 3.00 World News, 5.35 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(98kHz LW)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Talking in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(93.9-94.9MHz FM)
6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 Nicky Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News, 1.00 Ruscoe and Co, 4.00 Drive, 7.00 News Extra, 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Russell

Fuller presents coverage of the night's top league action, including Barnsley v Bradford, Birmingham v Norwich and Ipswich v Watford. Plus news of the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-finals, 10.00 Late Night Live. The days' big stories with Nick Robinson, including 10.30 a full sports round-up, 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion, 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey, 6.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Classics, 9.00 Evening Concert: A programme of works by the composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Jazz Suite No. 2, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/Riccardo Chailly, Piano Concerto No. 2, 1. Musici di Montreale/Maxim Shostakovich (piano), Three Romances on Poems by Pushkin, Sergei Liferkus (tenor), Götterburg SO/Neeme Järvi, Symphony No. 15, LSO/Mstislav Rostropovich, A Spin through the Snow, Philadelphia Orchestra/Riccardo Chailly, 11.00 Alan Mann, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(102.1-102.9MHz FM)
6.30 Russ Williams, 9.30 Mark Forrest, 1.00 Nick Abbott, 4.00 Harriet Scott, 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff, 7.30 Pete and Geoff, 10.00 James Merritt, 10.00 Steve Power, 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 World Today, 1.30 On Screen, 1.45 Record News, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Women Who Dared to Speak, 3.00 The World Today, 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Farrar, 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James, 12.00 Crime Beat, 1.00 Anna Raeburn, 4.00 The SportZone, 7.00 Eubank's People, 8.00 Cheating Hearts, 10.00 James Whale, 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

AFTER HIS dream start in Linares where he won well against Leko in the first round and then moved to "plus two" with a lucky win against Ivanchuk on time, Michael Adams has unfortunately fallen back into the pack with successive defeats as White against Gary Kasparov and Black against Vladimir Kramnik.

Following the Sunday rest day, the scores were Kasparov 4/6, Kramnik and Anand 3.5, Vidler, Topalov and Adams 3, Leko 2.5 and Ivanchuk just 1.5. After a tentative start, this left Kasparov in excellent shape as they neared the end of the first cycle, though there's still a long way to go. This is how he took the lead.

To avoid a theoretical battle, Adams opted for the Closed Sicilian but still got hit by a novelty, the temporary pawn sacrifice 9...b5! Adams built up a dangerous-looking kingside attack but Kasparov, buoyed up by the powerful e5 knight, ploughed ahead on the queenside. Not 26...Bxb6? 27 Nd5 Bxd5 28 Bxb6. Adams might have tried 29 Rxf7? Nxf7 and now either 30 Bxf6 Bf3 31 Bxf7+ Kh8 32 Rb1 Rxb1+ 33 Kg2 with some play for the exchange or possibly 30 Rxf7 Qxf7 31 Nxf7 Rb1 32 Bc1 Bb2 33 Kh2 Rxc1 34 Qg4 when owing to the b6 pawn combined with the ineffectiveness of the a8 bishop his queen may give him enough play to get a draw. Not 30 Bxf6? Qxf6 preventing 31 Rxf6 Qxf6+ 32...f5 looks risky but pursued the laudable aim of react-

ivating the white-squared bishop. Adams got play with 34 g4! but still ended up in an unpleasant endgame. He found some counterplay with 41.e5 but in the end the a pawn ran through.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Gary Kasparov
Closed Sicilian

1 e4 c5 31 Nxe5 Bxe5
2 Nc3 d5 32 Qd3 f5?
3 g3 Nc6 33 Bxe5 Qxe5
4 Bg2 g6 34 g4! Rxf2
5 d3 Bg7 35 Rxb2 Rb1+
6 Bc2 Nf6 36 Bf1 Rb2
7 Nge2 0-0 37 Rxb2 Qxb2
8 Bb3 e5 38 gxf5 Qd4+
9 0-0 b5! 39 Kh1 Bxa4
10 Nxb5 Rb8 40 fxe6 hxe6
11 a4 a6 41 e5 Qxe5
12 Na3 Rxb2 42 Qb7 Be8
13 Nc4 Rb8 43 Bg2 Qh5+
14 f4 exf4 44 Kf1 Qxh6
15 Nxf4 Na5 45 Qe7 Qc1+
16 Nd2 Bd7 46 Bf1 Bf7
17 Ra2 Bc6 47 Qxd6 Qe3+
18 Nb2 Ba8 48 Kh1 a5
19 c4 Nd7 49 Qd8+ Be8
20 Ra2 Nb3 50 Bg2 Qe1+
21 b4 Nd4 51 Kh2 Qe5+
22 Bb3 Nc2+ 52 Kh3 Kg7
23 Qx3 Ne5 53 Bd5 a4
24 Qd1 Qe7 54 Qe6 Bd7+
25 b5 Rb4 55 Kg2 Qe2+
26 h6 Rb3 56 h6 Rb3
27 Ne6 Rb8 57 Qxe5 Qe1+
28 Ng5 Rb2 58 Kg2 a2
29 Bf4 Bb6 59 Qd4+ Kh7
30 Nb3 Bc6 0-1

CREATIVITY

LOKI

NEW ACRONYMS for old: a glossary. Initials for contributors, too. Welcome to Janet M Holdcroft, John Lamper, Philip Marlow, Tony McCoy O'Grady and PB Thomas. Regular contributors should be recognisable from their initials; if not, invent irreverent names for them for next week!

ACCESS A Credit Card Encourages Silly Spending (JL). BAFTA Brilliantly Artistic Films Trading Awfully (JO'B). BSE Brains Scrambled Experimentally (ST); Because Scrape Eaten (BB); Britain-Scaring Experience (MH). BT Bureaucratic Torture (PM). CFC Chemicals For Clouds (ST). CIA Can't Investigate Anything (JAK): Cock-ups In Adventurism (JO'B). Cocaine Importation Authority (FM). ID Coppers In Disguise (MG). EEC Europe Eats Countries (PBT). FBI Funny Bloody Investigators (JAK). FRCS For Real Circumcision Satisfaction (LC). GMB Genetically Modified Babies (AB). ICBM Instant Chaos, Bloody Murder (MG). ICI Inescapable Carcinogenic Inhalations (BB). INTERPOL International Traders in Erotica, Raunchy Pornography and Obscene Literature (PG). IOC Impresarios On Cloud 9 (BB); Ym Open to Corruption (TMO'G); I Order Champagne (BJO'B). KGB Kept Giving Conservatives Backhanders (TMO'G). MAAF Madness Attributed to Additives in Food (MH). MENSA Morons Even Now Send Applications (PBT). MODEM Machine Only Disgorges Endless Mumbo-jumbo (TMO'G). NASA Not Another

Space Accident (JAK): Not Another Shuttle Abandoned (JO'B). NATO Nude And Totally Organic (JR); Nuclear Attacks Threatened Openly (MG); Not Aroused Till Over (BP); Noisy American Troops Overseas (JMB); No Ability To Organise (PBT). NHS No Hospital Space (LC); No Hips Supplied (JO'B). OFSTED Observing Fellow School Teachers, Evaluating Destructively (JMB); Obsessive Fads Stress Teachers Every Day (JL). OPEC Our Prices Escalate Continually (TMO'G).

PhD Particularly Harassed Daddy (AD). QED Quite Easily Deduced (LC). RSJ Right Silly Job (ED). UNESCO Unusual Number (o) Extremely Silly Conferences Organised (TMO'G). USA Unconvicted Serial Adulterer (ST); Unimpeachable Sexual Analysts (TMO'G). VAT Very 'Ar Times (BB).

John Lamper and Tony McCoy O'Grady via Chambers Dictionary of Quotations, as does Brendan O'Byrne's challenge: If lawyers are disbarred and clergy defrocked, would electricians be delighted, musicians denoted, cooks panned, Trojans destroyed, miners shafted? Describe how various people are dismissed from their jobs. Ideas to Creativity, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL or e-mail to Loki.Valhalla@btinternet.com by 11 March. Three prizes of Chambers - one for setting the challenge - L.h.a. 16 March. On 9 March William Vague leads a parade of aptly mis-spelt celebrities.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

KEVIN BACON (right) does a mean baddie - cf. JFK and The River Wild - so he is well cast as the ringleader of a group of cruel gangsters who abuse four youths at a juvenile detention centre in Sleepers (10pm Sky Premier). For Barry Levinson's memorably tough movie, Brad Pitt, Jason Patric, Ron Eldard and Billy Crudup play the four as grown-ups seeking revenge on the guards. Shockingly, the majority of this film - which also

features Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Minnie Driver - is based on a true story. Clash of Wings (4pm History Channel), is a detailed 13-part examination of the various aerial battles fought during the Second World War, from the massive bombing raids and dogfights to the kamikaze attacks. Today leading aviation expert Walter Boyne chronicles "The Plunge into Reality". JAMES RAMPTON



SKY PREMIER
6.00 Hearts Adrift (1996) (26647), 8.00 The Man Who Captured Eichmann (1996) (71482), 10.00 Deer God (1996) (7014), 12.00 The Directors (1996), 1.00 Hollywood Buzz (1996), 2.00 Hearts Adrift (1996) (54043), 4.00 Man Who Captured Eichmann (1996) (26647), 6.00 Deer God (1996) (5175), 8.00 Grosse Pointe Blank (1997) (5026), 10.00 Sleepers (1996) (272675), See Pick of the Day, 12.25 Moll Flanders (1996) (835976), 2.30 North Star (1985) (47066), 4.00 Strictly Business (1991) (51632).

SKY MOVIE
7.00 Earth Minus Zero (1996) (73257869), 8.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994) (50376), 11.00 Godzilla vs Megalon (1976) (37260), 1.00 Possums (1997) (54192), 3.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994) (50376), 5.00 Earth Minus Zero (1996) (73257869), 7.00 Possums (1997) (54192), 9.00 In My Sister's Shadow (1997) (5753), 11.00 Body Parts (1991) (50267), 12.30 Silent Lies (1996) (50376), 2.00 Next Step, Greenwich Village (1976) (273864), 4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954) (437139), 5.40 Close.

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Tin Star (1957) (429395), 6.00 Money Business (1952) (222244), 8.00 The Rain People (1969) (234329), 10.00 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) (70539), 11.55 100 Years... 100 Movies (1999) (50376), 12.30 Next Step, Greenwich Village (1976) (273864), 4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954) (437139), 5.40 Close.

SKY CINEMA
4.00 The Tin Star (1957) (429395), 6.00 Money Business (1952) (222244), 8.00 The Rain People (1969) (234329), 10.00 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) (70539), 11.55 100 Years... 100 Movies (1999) (50376), 12.30 Next Step, Greenwich Village (1976) (273864), 4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954) (437139), 5.40 Close.

SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (1998), 7.30 The Simpsons (1994), 8.00 The Simpsons (1994), 8.30 Hollywood Squares (1976), 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1973), 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1996), 11.00 Gullit (1974), 12.00 Jerry Jones (1971), 1.00 Mad about You (1995), 1.30 Jeopardy (1957), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1973), 3.00 Jerry Jones (1971), 4.00 Gullit (1974), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1994), 6.00 America's Funniest Home Videos (1994), 6.30 Dream Team (1997), 7.00 The Simpsons (1994), 7.30 The Simpsons (1994), 8.00 Rescue Medics (1992), 8.30 Coppers (1997), 9.00 World's Wildest Police Videos (1997), 10.00 Bloody Foreigners (1997), 11.00 Dream Team (1997), 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (1994), 12.30 The Cornish Connection (1997), 1.00 Long Long Play (1997), 1.30 - 2.00 Long Long Play (1997).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 7.30 V-Max (1998), 8.00 Total Sport (1998), 8.30 You're on Sky Sports (1998), 9.00 Racing News (1998), 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (1998), 10.00 Football League Review (1998), 11.00 Thriller (1998), 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (1998), 1.00 Ford Mondeo Night Football, Leicester City vs Leeds (1998), 2.00 Spanish Football (1998), 3.00 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (1998), 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 4.30 Scottish Football (1998).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Fastrax (1998), 8.00 Premier Snooker League (1998), 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 11.00 Inside Scottish Football (1998), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 1.00 You're on Sky Sports (1998), 1.30 Total Sport (1998), 2.00 World Motor Sport (1998), 3.00 Fastrax (1998), 4.00 Sports Unlimited (1998), 5.00 Golf: LPGA (1998), 6.00 Figure Skating (1998), 7.00 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 8.00 Cycling (1998), 9.00 Moto Cross (1998), 10.00 Golf: LPGA (1998), 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1998).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 World Wrestling Federation - 12.00 World Wrestling Federation - 1.00 Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (1998), 1.30 Fish TV (1998), 2.00 The Golden Age of Racing - A-Z of Motorsport (1998), 2.30 Sheffield Wonderful World of Golf Player vs Thompson (1998), 3.00 International

Bowls Australia vs England (1998), 3.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 4.00 Cycling (1998), 5.00 Fish TV (1998), 5.30 The Ultimate Fishing Show (1998), 6.00 Fish TV (1998), 6.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 7.00 Fish TV (1998), 7.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 8.00 Fish TV (1998), 8.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 9.00 Fish TV (1998), 9.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 10.00 Fish TV (1998), 10.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 11.00 Fish TV (1998), 11.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998), 12.00 Fish TV (1998), 12.30 Snowboarder Magazine (1998).

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (1998), 7.30 Neighbours (1998), 8.00 EastEnders (1998), 8.30 The Bill (1998), 9.00 When the Boat Comes In (1998), 9.30 Rhoda (1998), 10.00 Dallas (1998), 11.00 Neighbours (1998), 11.30 EastEnders (1998), 12.00 The Bill (1998), 12.30 EastEnders (1998).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (1998), 11.00 Westcountry News (1998), 11.30 This Morning (1998), 12.00 Westcountry News (1998), 12.30 This Morning (1998), 1.00 Westcountry News (1998), 1.30 This Morning (1998), 2.00 Westcountry News (1998), 2.30 This Morning (1998), 3.00 Westcountry News (1998), 3.30 This Morning (1998), 4.00 Westcountry News (1998), 4.30 This Morning (1998), 5.00 Westcountry News (1998), 5.30 This Morning (1998).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (1998), 11.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 11.30 This Morning (1998), 12.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 12.30 This Morning (1998), 1.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 1.30 This Morning (1998), 2.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 2.30 This Morning (1998), 3.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 3.30 This Morning (1998), 4.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 4.30 This Morning (1998), 5.00 Yorkshire News (1998), 5.30 This Morning (1998).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 12.30 Newsnight (1998), 12.45 Treen Seun (1998), 1.00 The Next Step (1998), 1.30 News (1998), 1.50 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 2.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 2.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 3.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

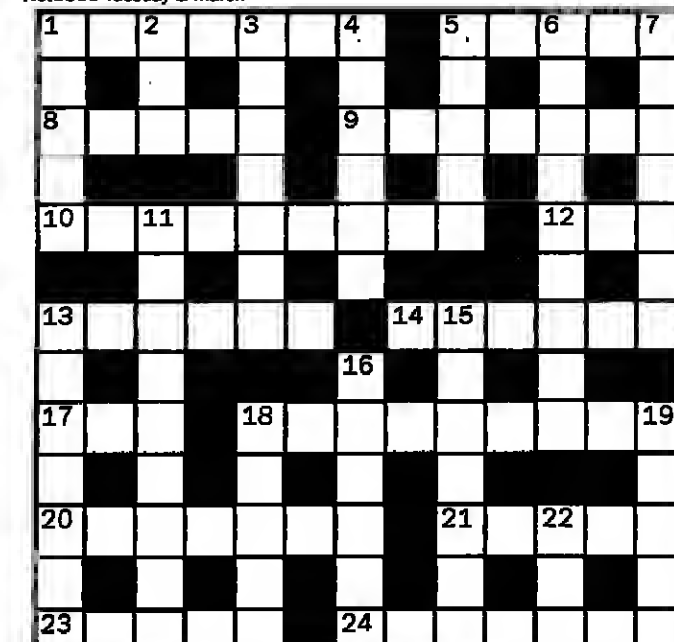
BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (1998), 7.30 Making a Difference (1998), 8.30 Workers at War (1998), 9.30 Spotlight (1998), 10.40 Film: The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1998), 12.00 Film: Crazy People (1998), 1.25 BBC News 24 (1998), 2.00 BBC News 24 (1998).

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3859 Tuesday 2 March



ACROSS

- More incisive (7)
- Reddish-coloured horses (5)
- Up to the time of (5)
- Digit (7)
- Nerve pain (9)
- Fish (3)
- Port worker (6)
- Wheedle (6)
- Meadow (3)
- Assessment of resources (5,4)
- Contradict (7)
- Recess (5)
- Big cat (5)
- Declaimed (7)

DOWN

- Reject (5)
- Part of play (3)
- Throb (7)
- Go back on promise (6)
- Latin American dance (5)
- Landing area (9)
- Possible to solve (7)
- Endless (9)
- Joy (7)
- Poisonous element (7)
- Solicitor, e.g. (6)
- Niggard (5)
- Part of step (5)
- Domestic pet (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1. Wince, 4. Apple, 1. Was a prize, 8. Amad, 9. Jeig, 10. Hveia, 11. Cornu, 13. Iota, 15. Revamp, 17. Itern, 20. Ache, 22. Ictile, 24. Radit, 26. Fin-up, 27. Embrace, 28. Royalty, 29. Canoe, DOWN: 1. Weather, 2. Nure, 3. Exclaim, 4. Abduct, 5. Prior, 6. Imitate, 7. Eager, 12. Oath, 14. Opal, 16. Vacancy, 18. Aerobic, 19. Naivete, 21. Celery, 22. Taper, 23. Impet, 25. Drain.

